

Design check on old people's home where 18 died

Senior county officers and fire brigade officials meet in Nottingham today to try to seek causes of fire that killed 18 people in an old people's home on the outskirts of the city early yesterday.

The Nottinghamshire county architect said the design of the Fairfield Home at Edwalton met all by-law requirements when it was built 14 years ago. A point to be considered now was whether the requirements were stringent enough for housing so many old people.

Three women aged 99 saved

Three women aged 99 were rescued from a fire at the Fairfield Home in Nottingham. The women were rescued from the fire which broke out in the early hours of the morning.

Clasp (Consortium of Local Authorities Special Programme) Office laboratory in Nottingham, who had been sifting through the debris during the day, said: "At the moment it is impossible to find the seat of the fire, and most witnesses are too shocked to talk to us. Some one may have been smoking, but we just do not know at this stage what started it."

The home, which had oil-fired central heating, had no sprinkler system. Several witnesses spoke of flames suddenly "shooting" through the false ceiling beneath the main outer roofing of the building, apparently having burnt unseen for some time and then been driven by a strong wind.



The blackened and burnt-out sections of the Fairfield Home, in which 18 old people died early yesterday.

Photograph by Bill Wurtman

see if there was sufficient staff cover at night and whether steps should be taken to increase this cover at the county's 40 other old people's homes, 10 of which are similar to Fairfield. They will also discuss the suitability or otherwise of the building's fabric.

Materials used in the building of the home consisted primarily of a steel frame, plaster sound linings, timber for the roof and clay tiles. Mr Henry Swain, Nottinghamshire county architect, said those traditional materials met all local

by-law requirements of the time. An important point that now has to be considered is whether they were stringent enough for a building housing so many old people," he said.

The Clasp system, he said, was only a matter of prefabricating and making parts in larger sections than normal. Nottinghamshire was a leading participant in the scheme to provide large, light-framed buildings because it had so much land liable to subsidence through mining. The buildings

had a flexibility to allow for that. About two thousand buildings had been erected throughout Britain, mainly schools. About a quarter of them were other public buildings.

Harder rules for Tory leadership ballot

But if he does badly on the first ballot there will be strong pressure on him to stand down in favour of Mr Whitelaw, who has consistently said that he will not challenge Mr Heath for the office. At that point other candidates might well come forward.

The effect of the proposals is likely to be that MPs can vote for Mr Heath's challenger on the first ballot without feeling that there is too great a danger of installing someone who might not be their first choice.

Agreement near in Martinique on common front of oil consumers

Ever since the Washington energy conference last February the United States has wanted to organize, in effect, a common front of oil consuming countries to approach the oil producers at an eventual conference.

Initial French opposition to the idea has diminished markedly. What remains is to devise the form of words to create a synthesis of French and American views. This would ensure that the consumer nations would go into the conference minutely well prepared to ensure their unity of purpose while averting (as the French wish) the appearance of confrontation.

Since the idea will be at least to stabilize oil prices it is hard to see how such confrontation is to be avoided. The Americans would like to see a three-phase procedure agreed in Martinique: the next three months to be spent in negotiating consumer solidarity, then three more months preparing joint consumer positions before the final grand conference with the oil producers is reached.

Price gap holds up EEC sugar deal

Arrangements for the delivery of up to 1,400,000 tons of cane sugar to Britain and other parts of the European Community from Commonwealth developing countries are still far from complete.

Black Rhodesians talk of 'interim period'

Black and white leaders in Rhodesia indulged in some verbal shadow-boxing this weekend over their fragile agreement to negotiate a constitutional settlement.

Mr Robert Mugabe, one of the leading African nationalists newly released from jail, reiterated that the issue was one of immediate transfer of power, but agreed that there would be, necessarily, an interim period during which the legislative changes would be introduced.

Sudden death of Sir Alec Douglas-Home inquiry

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, former Prime Minister, died suddenly on Saturday. An inquiry is being held into the circumstances of his death.

Mr Thorpe, the Liberal leader, conducting the inquiry in aid of Help the Aged in Trafalgar Square yesterday.

England trailing by 171 runs in second Test

England need 171 runs to avoid an innings defeat in the second Test in Perth. In reply to Australia's 481, England are 102 for one in their second innings.

Greece acts on bases

All foreign military bases which do not serve the interests of Greece will have to be withdrawn, Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, told Parliament yesterday.

Mystery over hotel shooting motive

The motive of a man who fired a volley of bullets at the entrance to the Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, London, on Saturday night remained unclear yesterday.

Five rape victims

A rapist who has been attacking women in Cambridge claimed his fifth victim in eight weeks yesterday. She was an American, aged 20, who was attacked in her flat.

Code may allow inflation accounting

Our price code changes, to allow us to use inflation accounting, are believed to be under consideration by the Government.

Chirac's victory

M Chirac, the French Prime Minister, has asserted his control over the Gaullist party by getting himself elected its secretary general, despite the disapproval of such party "barons" as M Debré and M Chaban-Delmas.

Miners' pay: Social contract is irrelevant to present claim because men must get bigger rises than other workers, militant leader says

Benches impartiality: Judges are studying a resolution by probation officers urging that social inquiry reports on an accused should be withheld from them until guilt is proved.

Comics: Nine children out of 10 read a comic and the readership of the top two is nearly a million a market research survey has reported

Cornish £1: The Stannary Parliament, revived after 220 years, has authorized issue of a Cornish currency in banknotes without the Queen's portrait.

Middle East: Egypt's call for 50-year ban on Israel immigration will be "diplomatic exercise" in peace move

Centre Point: Mr Harry Hyams has ceded control of Oldham Estates, which includes the Centre Point block, to the Co-operative Insurance Society.

TV & Radio

TV & Radio: 7 Theatres, etc 6, 7 25 Years Ago 15 Universities 15 Weather 2 Wills 15

Paul Oestreicher, chairman of the section of Amnesty International, said yesterday that he had visited German prisons to see suspected members of the Baader-Meinhof guerrilla.

Home News

Table with 4 columns: Home News, European News, Overseas News, Agriculture, Appointments, Arts, Business, Chess, Court, Crossword, Diary, Engagements, Features, Letters, Monday Book, Obituary, Parliament, Premium Bonds, Property, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Theatres, etc, 25 Years Ago, Universities, Weather, Wills.

On other pages

Leader page 13 Letters: On Britain and the Middle East from the Editor of The Guardian and Mr Simon Walker; on Israel and Unesco's work from the Editor-in-Chief of the Unesco Courier; on the incident of disaffection from Mr J. R. Beevor. Leading articles: University finance; The Nato meeting. Obituary page 15. Sir Morris Finer, chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press; Dr Kurt Hahn, founder of Gordonstoun; Mr Walter Lippmann, the American political columnist. Features, pages 12 and 14. Richard Harris continues his East Asia survey, explaining why the Chinese have had their fill of revolutionary zeal; Gwynne Dyer says Israel's nuclear bomb announcement introduces dangerous new rules in the Middle East game. Diary: Voice of America tones down its propaganda content to conform with Dr Kissinger's détente policies. Arts, page 7. William Mann on Scottish Opera's fine Marchallin, and John Higgins on Covent Garden's Faust; Thomas Pakenham reviews Kenneth Griffith's book on the siege of Ladysmith. Sport, pages 9 and 10. Cricket: West Indies beat India by an innings; Tennis: Vilas wins Masters title; Skiing: World Cup disqualifications over illegal ski suits; Hockey: English divisional tournament. Business News, pages 16-21. Business management: The need to balance educational philosophy with consultants demonstrate their worth. Business features: Hugh Stephenson on the Beam adaptation of the Industry Act; America's divided views on the new energy package discussed by Geoffrey Bell; David Blake on the German deflationary measures. Business Diary: How happy are the British? EEC's new number plates.

Advertisement for Dewar's Scotch Whisky. Text: 'Have a little smoothness for Christmas.' 'Dewar's Fine Scotch Whisky'. 'Blended for smoothness - it never varies.'

Social contract is irrelevant to miners' wage claim, militant union leader says

By Raymond Perman
Labour Staff

A left-wing miners' union leader said yesterday that he thought the social contract was irrelevant to their pay claim. Mr Peter Heathfield, Derbyshire area secretary, said miners must get a bigger increase than other workers so that the industry could keep its labour force and contribute fully to Britain's energy needs.

Mr Heathfield, a member of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive, said that if the coal board replied to the contract guidelines it would offer increases of about a fifth, which would give miners about £10 more.

"Even Len Clarke (a leading moderate on the executive) has indicated that he thinks £15 would be acceptable. If he is offered £10 perhaps he will become a militant again."

Mr Joseph Gormley, the union's president and Mr Michael McGahey, the vice-president, will meet the coal board tomorrow for exploratory talks on the pay claim. At last Thursday's meeting of the union's executive Mr Gormley overruled Mr McGahey to secure a victory for moderates, so that the claim will be for "substantial" rises instead of for £30 more a week.

But militants are determined to keep the claim alive in the coalfields and there will be an attempt to revive the £30 figure when the executive meets on Wednesday to discuss the initial progress of pay talks.

Wives down the pit: Miners' wives who went underground at Thoresby colliery, Nottinghamshire, yesterday, said afterwards that their husbands were not paid enough.

Mrs Pat Revell, whose husband, Mr Brian Revell, aged 30, is working on £4.5m extensions to the pit, said: "When I see men getting the same money for pushing trolleys in the local hosiery factories I get so mad. Miners should get a lot more than them for the conditions they have to put up with."

"The air is so terrible down there, and I am exhausted after just an hour and a half walking around."

But Mrs Revell said that increases should result from "sensible" pay claims.

Mrs June Marples, whose husband, Mr Henry Marples, aged 35, is a face worker, said: "Working conditions are a lot worse than you would think, and we only saw the best parts of it. I won't be moaning at him when he flops down in an armchair when he comes home now."

The visit underground for 40 wives was arranged after a deputy had asked for his wife to be shown where he worked.

Mrs Mary Goodwin, 38, father of five young children, was killed yesterday at a coal face at Coalville, Leicestershire, while working overtime to earn extra money for Christmas. He was struck by a falling roof support.

Mr Leonard Box, aged 33, father of five young children, was killed yesterday at a coal face at Coalville, Leicestershire, while working overtime to earn extra money for Christmas. He was struck by a falling roof support.

Mrs Herbert called the brigade at 1.05 am, and seven minutes later firemen were on the scene and starting to remove the residents as best they could in the dense, choking smoke. Ultimately 11 fire appliances were called.

Even by that stage many of the elderly inhabitants were unconscious either from smoke or from inhaling drugs administered earlier.

Mrs Johnson described how she wrapped a wet towel round her face and went back into the building to help rescue some residents. With Mrs Herbert, she tried to get them out but some had to be dragged out.

Mr Alfred Richings, aged 62, who lives opposite the home in Alfred Road, was one of the first on the scene. He had stayed up late watching a television film and at about 1.30 am saw flames coming through the roof at one end of the Fairfield Home. He saw Mrs Herbert coming out of the door and she told him that the building was full of smoke and they were having difficulty breathing.

Mr Richings said he could hear residents screaming and shouting to be rescued. A police car arrived and he borrowed the torch of Police Sergeant Alan Robinson to smash windows. The officer used his gun as a wedge to get in and began passing out residents through the broken windows.

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Last night the names of 15 of the dead were issued. They were: Mrs Lillian Astill, Mrs James Blacklaw, Miss Violet Brerley, Mrs Ethel Goodwin, Mr Walter Hipwell, Mrs Mary Preston, Mrs Mabel Robin, Miss Isabel Salmon, Mrs Alan Black, Mrs Margaret Ward, Mrs Florence Warren, Mrs Violet Whitcup, Mrs Lily Armstrong, Mrs Elsie Moutt and Mrs Ethel Reif.

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Half-pay pension offered

By Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent

Proposals by the National Coal Board to introduce a superannuation scheme giving miners a weekly pension of up to half the wage at retirement is to be considered by area councils of the National Union of Mineworkers in the next few weeks.

It is understood that the union's national executive has recommended acceptance of the scheme. Because of the welter of argument about pay claims the board has been reluctant to publicise the offer made to last week's meeting of the union's executive for fear that it may influence the wage debate.

No details of the scheme are yet available but it is understood that it is scheduled to take effect from next April.

Men must have at least 10 years' service to qualify for the new pension. Recipients of the existing retirement pension of £3.60 a week will not qualify, although it is understood that there will be some increase for them.

On present basic rates the scheme could mean that underground workers with 10 years' service would draw up to £22.50 a week pension.

The board fears that if the superannuation offer is heavily publicised before negotiations on the wage claim begin, rank-and-file miners might tend to discount it as a benefit already won.

Mr Heath confirmed in the roughest terms yesterday that he will stand in a ballot next spring if there is one for the Labour Party. He also said that his general election proposal for a government of national unity in a worsening economic crisis remained open; that he believed the British people would agree to stay within the EEC when asked in a referendum; that the social contract was failing to contain inflation; and that he remained to be convinced that Mr Wilson, as Prime Minister, had dropped off the fence and would support British membership of the EEC.

Speaking on the BBC radio programme *The World This Week*, he denied that disarray over the party leadership had weakened the Conservative opposition in Parliament. He himself had set up the committee, under Sir Alec Douglas-Home, to review the whole procedure for electing a Conservative leader. What the committee proposed in the report delivered last week would now be discussed by different sections of the Conservative Party: in the House of Commons, the country and the House of Lords. As leader he would be given their views early in the new year and "we shall reach a decision".

Mr Heath said Britain was in a particularly difficult situation. What is absolutely essential, first of all, is that the Government should take the country exactly where the truth is. The problem is that the level of wages being paid at this moment is so high that it not only covers any increase in the cost of living. Unions are looking forward to further increases... This will create price rises and inflation at an ever increasing rate.

Mr Wilson and the EEC: Mr Heath was asked if Mr Wilson had dropped off the fence before and during the Paris summit last week. "I would never go so far," he answered, "as to say he was off any fence at all. In the great scheme of things, Mr Wilson has been a success."

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No clue to motive for hotel shooting

By Clive Borrell

Detectives searching for the killer at the entrance of the Churchill Hotel in London on Saturday night were still mystified about the motive for the incident last night.

Mr and Mrs William Blair, an American couple staying at the hotel in Portman Square, St Marylebone, were taken to the Middlesex Hospital with slight gunshot wounds. A Swedish couple were treated for shock and cuts caused by flying glass.

A bullet ricocheted round the foyer of the hotel and another pierced the bodywork of a car parked outside. The shots, all from an automatic weapon, were fired from a dark Ford Transit which caused a walloping noise at the entrance of the hotel as many of the guests were preparing to go out.

At least nine spent cartridge cases were found in the road after the police had cordoned the area.

Scotland Yard's bomb squad, which deals exclusively with terrorist attacks, is being kept fully informed of the details but is not taking an active part in the investigation.

Detective Chief Supt D. C. Hurley wants to interview taxi drivers who were in the Portman Square area at around 8.30 pm on Saturday. They were the last to see the suspicious vehicle which could give a valuable lead, a senior detective said.

Forensic scientists last night were comparing Saturday night's bullet with one from the incident at the Cavalry Club in Finsbury Park on Thursday night. Shots from an automatic were fired at the club and at taxi drivers after a bomb had been thrown inside.

The decision was taken by the executive of the union, which represents 110,000 of the 220,000 porters, kitchen staff, ward orderlies and other manual workers.

The offer would give the lowest-paid staff a weekly basic wage of £30, the TUC target minimum.

Boy of 13 found dead

Carl Alan Fraser, aged 13, of Walton, Stone, Staffordshire, was found hanging when his parents reported a missing child dead on arrival at hospital. Foul play was not suspected.

At that point Sergeant Robinson and another officer, Det Constable Ivan Machin, who was involved in the rescue, collapsed through the ceiling of smoke and were taken to hospital.

By that time many neighbours had arrived and helped to carry survivors on chair litters to a school near by.

Mr Richings also warned firemen about a tank containing 8,000 gallons of fuel oil for the home's heating system, and the tank was damped down.

Mr Richings said it would have been better if the "houses" had had french windows for the individual bedrooms. They would have enabled rescuers to drag out bodies without having to pass the people through the windows.

Mr Thorobill, the chief fire officer, who was called from his home a mile away, said: "No one could have lived long in there. The fumes were killing and eventually we had to search each room by torchlight. Some of the residents had managed to get out of bed, only to collapse on the floor."

There was some structural collapse in the building as well, which made rescue operations even more difficult. Most of the survivors we did rescue were unconscious. Most of the dead were in houses 1 and 2."

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Quiet confidence but some reservations about the man who is 'almost too nice' to lead the Tory party

Cumbria waits for call to Mr Whitelaw

From John Groszer
Penrith

Reports that the Conservative Party at Westminster in its search for a leader with his roots in the heart of Tory England may turn to anyone other than Mr William Whitelaw are decided in Cumbria. The local party hierarchy, allegedly abetted by the squires of the whole Northern area, is quietly preparing for the moment next week when Mr Whitelaw finally answers the call.

That is not to say that there are no reservations about the MP for Penrith and the Border. "He is almost too nice and friendly," says "But he is a local farmer, says. "But he is a local farmer, says. "But he is a local farmer, says."

We are in the Agricultural Hotel here. The party at the Mart, which on auction day is the icy scene of Cumbria.

The auctioneer looks worried. He has to parade nearly 1,100 cattle before the throng of farmers, breeders and dealers. This is the chairman of the Northern area (one of the 11 areas into which the party is divided) is Mr Jock Pattinson, who says

Government of National Unity: "That is, of course, a matter for the Prime Minister, but I agree absolutely that the situation nationally is very grave indeed. We have had probably the worst week in our country's history from the point of view of economic results."

It was much worse than the trade figures suggested. I have always said we are now in a position in which we ought to agree as far as possible on the basis of action for this country. I said we would turn to Mr Wilson as government. We would ask for the support of other parties.

The social contract: Mr Heath does not accept that the social contract was working as well as could be expected: "The problem is that it is so vague; nobody knows what it means by it, and it is therefore impossible to judge the extent to which it is working. Secondly, it is really a political arrangement between the Labour Party and some of the trade union leaders."

He firmly denied that a year ago "the Conservative Government was confronting the miners: "We have never confronted the miners. I hope now people will begin to realize what the problems were in those days. We were fighting against inflation. Since February inflation has got very much worse. The question of the miners was far from settled."

Mr Heath said Britain was in a particularly difficult situation. What is absolutely essential, first of all, is that the Government should take the country exactly where the truth is. The problem is that the level of wages being paid at this moment is so high that it not only covers any increase in the cost of living. Unions are looking forward to further increases... This will create price rises and inflation at an ever increasing rate.

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Sir Keith calls for mobility of labour

It was a "cruel mockery" for Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, to say that all workers had a right to stay on in the same job in the same firm, Sir Keith Joseph, Opposition spokesman on domestic affairs, said in a speech at Leeds on Saturday.

"This is a cruel deception," he continued, "because it would be, and Mr Benn must know this, a recipe for national bankruptcy which would end by undermining millions of jobs."

"Job security, in the same sense of the men being guaranteed continued work at the same job in the same place, even if the same department and at rising wages, is the enemy of long-run full employment and rising living standards."

"The working population must choose between narrow illusory job security in one place or a more realistic policy based on a prosperous dynamic economy."

Without growth "we shall not be able to afford either the great schemes for improved welfare and training of life or the more investment and reequipment which we all agree are needed, however much we may trim essentials."

The greatest scope for growth came from acceptance of the need for a radical improvement in the use of labour, Sir Keith said. "The general our industry is over-manned and has therefore too low earnings and too little profit for investment. The four are linked."

It would be better all round if fewer men using more investment could produce greater output for higher earnings while the redeployed men were transferred to more productive areas on better-paid jobs. "This is growth, whether the new work is in industry, commerce or services, public or private."

Sir Keith defended his speech on unemployment in September. "Not only has it been said in criticism of my arguments has led me to retreat from them," he said.

"I argued and still argue that excessively expanding the money supply does not help the unemployed by stimulating demand or by taking them out of unemployment themselves."

"I was at once accused of prescribing unemployment as a cure for inflation, and of blaming inflation on to full employment."

In fact, I expressly argued the case for a policy of inflation that can lead to economic collapse and mass unemployment; that the cause of inflation was not full employment but the means devised to define, measure and achieve it."

Mr Walker said, in his speech on Wednesday, that the Government must have a Chancellor who had not lost all authority. "Men like Re-Prentice and Roy Jenkins must be brought to the front line of the economic 'battle'."

Mr Wilson must create new Labour government policies to meet Britain's greatest peace time crisis or "the government and our country are destined to ruin". For the present Government, Mr Walker said, "the day of judgment is very close."

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Prayers for peace in Ulster said in 4,000 churches

A joint campaign for peace in Northern Ireland began yesterday, with services and prayers in more than four thousand Irish churches.

Leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterians, and the Methodists issued special addresses and a message of support was received from Mr Cosgrave, Prime Minister of the Republic.

Controversy over the meeting which Northern Ireland Protestant church leaders had with Provisional IRA men last week continued. A six-point peace plan has been passed to the Provisionals, it was learnt yesterday.

It is in the hands of the IRA's army council and is due to be considered within a few days.

Hospital workers urged to accept pay offer

By Our Labour Staff

Leaders of the National Union of Public Employees yesterday recommended their members working in hospitals to accept a 19 per cent pay offer, so making it virtually certain that one of the first of the big pay claims of the bargaining season will be settled within the social contract.

The decision was taken by the executive of the union, which represents 110,000 of the 220,000 porters, kitchen staff, ward orderlies and other manual workers.

The offer would give the lowest-paid staff a weekly basic wage of £30, the TUC target minimum.

Prayers for peace in Ulster said in 4

HOME NEWS

Judges regard doubts on social reports as attack on impartiality

Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Judges are being asked their views about an issue that involves one of the most important principles in criminal justice...

They say that if a judge knew a man appearing before him had previous convictions for the same sort of offence...

An exploratory meeting, described as "constructive" was held in October between representatives of the national association...

The association is anxious to preserve and develop good relations with the courts...

The criticism by the probation officers is seen by judges and lawyers as being misconceived.

They point out that a judge does not himself decide on the innocence or guilt of a defendant...

Where there is a plea of not guilty the verdict is left to the jury. The judge's function is to sum up the case to the jury...

During this summing up he is not entitled to mention anything which was not given in formal evidence...

There is thus no danger of what is in the social inquiry report being communicated to the jury.

Law Society opposes wider bailiff power

By Our Legal Correspondent

The Law Society has come out against a government proposal that judgments for debt in the High Court should be enforced by the same procedure as that used in the county courts.

In a memorandum to Lord Elwyn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, the Law Society says that the High Court enforcement procedure, which uses officers of the sheriff of the county of residence to attach goods, is quick and efficient.

By contrast, the service provided by the bailiffs who enforced county court judgments was unsatisfactory. County court bailiffs in general had little or no commercial experience and were not equipped to challenge the claims of the persistent, "professional" debtors.

Bailiffs often reported that the debtor did not own goods when later investigation has shown this to be incorrect. They accepted without further inquiry statements by a debtor's wife that her husband had left his house and had no goods there.

In the county court the process of enforcement tends to be in fact done, encourage debtors to defer payment, to seek ways and means of avoiding payment altogether, the memorandum says.

In brief

Muslims protest at TV show

About two thousand Muslims from Yorkshire and Lancashire yesterday took part in a protest march in Bradford over the Father Brown television programme.

They said the prophet Muhammad was defamed when he was referred to as "a dirty old humbug" in the episode on November 21.

Football arrests

Thirty-five youths and two teenage girls were arrested at the football match between Ipswich Town and Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, the largest number of arrests at an Ipswich game. The youths face charges under the Public Order Act.

Quick handling

Passengers on British Airways domestic flights at Heathrow handled their own baggage yesterday because of a strike by loaders. General opinion was that baggage was reaching the terminal quicker than before the strike.

View from the shops

Part of the Roman wall in Lincoln is to be incorporated in a new shopping centre. Shoppers will be able to view archaeological treasures from a gallery.

Boy in M1 death fall

A boy aged four, died yesterday after falling out of his father's car on the M1 near Hatedon, Hampshire. He was run over by a following car and died in hospital.

Mother dies in fire

A woman died and her son and mother were badly hurt in a fire at a council maisonette in Lee Green, south London, yesterday. The dead woman was Mrs Sylvia Hampson.

Man shot in raid

Two armed men stole £3,989 from a Swindon milk depot late on Saturday after shooting and wounding one man and locking other staff in a vault.

Blood sold to pay for trip

An English woman sold her own blood by the pint to help her on an overland trip she booked to India with a Midlands travel firm which collapsed. Miss Marianne Le-Blond, aged 23, of Rodington Lane, Wilford, Nottinghamshire, who was booked with the Nottingham-based Amano Overland Travel, said she used the blood money to pay for food and hotel fees.

She said she received £3.50 for a pint of blood in Istanbul and £2 in Tehran. When the tour party ran out of money in Calcutta, the British Embassy staff and her family gave her financial assistance on the homeward journey.



ing begins at Hill's the violin-makers, who are leaving London for Missenden, Buckinghamshire, after more than two centuries in the End.

ware, romantics, the crofting way of life

antics are becoming an obsession. Too many people have rosy notions about lifting bridge on the world and themselves from their backyards apply to the nation for crofts, the High-landholdings protected by law and offering a country life.

There is a more romantic hope of forming a new society. No one may acquire croftland without the approval of the commission and to protect the people already living there the commission closely examines the status of those who try to buy their way into crofts.

A croft sold as a second home means there are fewer people to support a bus service, a doctor or a school and the community takes one step further towards extinction.

Crofters have formed a basic thread of Highlands life for centuries. Some 45,000 people are supported on about 18,000 crofts in the Highlands and Islands. Rents are low and income varies according to what other work the crofter does.

Regional report

Ronald Faux Inverness

an encouraging drift back to the Highlands of the children from crofting families.

We have had a lot of evidence that young people with a crofting background are returning home because of the opportunities of work associated with North Sea oil development, Mr Grant says. This had shown in applications to subdivide crofts where a crofter wished to provide a home for his returned son.

Although the crofting areas may be well separated from towns and cities, they are not divorced from the effects of inflation. Distance adds an edge to rising prices and the commission is pressing the government to give the crofters more protection. In many areas this year's harvest was disastrous.

leaving many crofting farmers with insufficient home-grown foodstuffs to winter their animals. Because of poor market prices crofters, particularly in Argyll, Caithness, Inverness, the Outer Isles and the Ross and Cromarty mainland, will be carrying up to 40 per cent extra young stock this winter.

Because of the reduced quality and quantity of home-grown fodder and the larger numbers of stock, crofters are having to buy even more fodder at much inflated prices. To a true crofter who is self-employed and earning his entire income from small-scale farming this is serious.

The Highlands Board recently questioned a number of bank managers in the North. Almost all said they had been approached by farmers for an extension of overdrafts to pay for wintering stock. More than half the managers said there was a danger that some farming clients would have liquidity problems "with which we should be unable to assist".

Most children read about comics a week

Devlin on Correspondent says all of the 9,700,000 in Britain between the five and 15 read at least one comic a week, according to a survey carried out by the research branch of the Inter-Publishing Corporation. Dandy which heads the "top 10" have higher circulation than The Times and Guardian.

independent organization based in London, disagreed with the Schools Council's comment that the amount of verbal comment in comics had declined. He said: "Comics are very good for a child's language development. A lot of people have stereotyped ideas about comics as full of colloquialisms like bang and whoomp. It is arguable that some of these words are undesirable but they also have words and sentence formations which a child might not meet at school until he or she was much older."

The "top ten" list of the 45 comics on the market for children aged five to 12 years is: Beano (500,000 circulation); Dandy (400,000); Bunty (262,000); Victor (261,000); Tammy (251,000); Buzzer (250,000); Topper (220,000); Diana (215,000); Look-In (213,000); Whizzer and Chips (198,000).

Last March IPC started Jinty and Whoopie which now have circulations of 340,000 and 268,000 respectively. But Mr Barratt said they had been heavily promoted and it was too early to say what their eventual circulations would be.

Worcester supermarket plan called 'disaster'

From Our Correspondent Worcester

A big new supermarket on the edge of Worcester would cause commercial disaster for city centre traders and would increase traffic, a public inquiry will be told by local planning officials tomorrow. The store, proposed by J. Sainsbury Ltd, would have a total floor area of 49,400ft, almost as much as the combined grocery space of all existing supermarkets and big stores in the city centre.

The planning application was referred to the Secretary of State for the Environment as a departure from the Worcester development plan. It is being opposed by the city council, Hereford and Worcester County Council and Droitwich Town Development Committee.

Mr A. G. Arnold, Worcester planning officer, reports that the store might take away 65 per cent of the food trade in the city's catchment area and lead to "a process of decay" in city centre business.

It would encourage car shopping and increase traffic in Worcester, which with no ring road and only one river bridge is vulnerable to cross-town traffic. The county council's policy is that "hypermarkets or other

large isolated shopping centres should be resisted because of disastrous effects they would have on both the financial and environmental aspects of the existing centres."

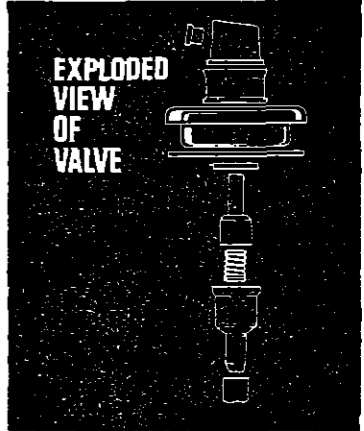
Sainsbury said two similar supermarkets, opened in the past three years at Breton, Flintshire, and Langney, near Eastbourne, had proved quite acceptable to the local communities. The company opened a third outside Cambridge earlier this month. All three were opposed at local inquiries.

Lakes road plea: Plans for a large carrying way alongside Bassingbourn Lake in the Lake District National Park should be abandoned by the Government for the twenty-fifth anniversary today of the National Parks Act, countryside organisations suggested yesterday (a Staff Reporter writes).

The Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Ramblers' Association said the scheme should be reconsidered because of new factors.

They were the Government's new design standards allowing for higher traffic flows; the recent energy-saving speed limits; and the Sandford recommendation that environmental standards should come first in national park road plans.

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Aerosols play an important part in almost everyone's daily life. What would the ladies do without hairspray, housewives without air fresheners, gardeners with no insect sprays or anyone without anti-perspirants?

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HOME NEWS

Cambridge rapist claims fifth victim

From Our Correspondent Cambridge

A rapist being hunted by a police squad in Cambridge claimed his fifth victim in eight weeks early yesterday.

Her arms were bound and she was gagged by her attacker. Her arms were slashed with a knife during a struggle.

Det Supt Bernard Hotson, who heads the anti-rape squad set up by Cambridgeshire police after the first attack on October 18, said: "The man responsible for these attacks is a dangerous maniac who will strike again and again until we catch him.

All the victims have been women in their early twenties. One trainee teacher at Homerton College was dragged from a sound-proofed music room in the college and raped in the grounds, but the others have been attacked in their flats or bed-sitting rooms.

Until yesterday the attacker had prevented his victims from seeing his face. But yesterday's victim caught a glimpse of him. She described him as about 25 years old, 5ft 3in tall, softly-spoken, wearing a beard, which may be false, a bottle-green jumper and dark trousers.

Mr Hotson again warned single women to make sure that their doors and windows are locked when they are alone. The police are worried about the ease with which attacker is able to enter flats in Cambridge, in spite of police warnings.

The warnings have been directed not only at individual women in flats and bed-sitting rooms but also to Cambridge women's colleges and Cambridgeshire Technical College.

Fishermen rescued

Five men were rescued from a small fishing boat which sank about eight miles south-east of the Tyne early yesterday.



Seasonal shopping at Alice Holt, a Forestry Commission plantation near Farnham, Surrey.

Tinners' parliament plans coinage

From Our Correspondent St Austell

Cornwall's Stannary Parliament, revived this year after a lapse of 222 years, has authorized the issue within the next few weeks of a Cornish currency in banknotes which will not carry a picture of the Queen.

Mr Frederick Trull, clerk to the Stannary, has set up a Cornish National Fund to issue preliminary notes in five shillings, ten shillings, £1 and £5 denominations.

He said yesterday that the main demand was likely to be as collectors' items but there was no reason why it should not become the main currency in Cornwall. "I plan to back the currency with gold and silver bought with the money paid for the new notes and deposited in a St Austell bank," he said.

The Stannary Parliament has postponed its seizure of Crown property in St Austell planned for today.

The members had agreed to seize an unspecified building in order to force the Crown to recognize the validity of the ancient tinners' parliament.

Yesterday Mr Brian Hambley, Lord Protector of the Stannaries, said that the Home Secretary is rejecting the Stannary Parliament's petition to the Queen for recognition had by implication accepted Cornwall's right to a parliament.

The Home Office said the present Stannary Parliament could not be considered valid because it was not elected by the mayor and councillors of the boroughs of Truro, Helston, Lostwithiel and Launceston, as prescribed under the charter.

Mr Hambley said the parliament had always been elected by the privileged tinners. It was the Cornish Convocation that

was elected as the Home Secretary described.

"That is just what we have tried to do, but the Duchy of Cornwall told the four boroughs to have nothing to do with us," he said. "Now we are asking the four boroughs to approve the selection of six stannators from each of their areas and we have decided to postpone the seizure of Crown property."

The matter had become very urgent. By accepting one part of the Charter of Pardon the Home Secretary must accept the whole. That meant that no Westminster law passed in the past 220 years was valid in Cornwall because it had not received the assent of the Cornish Convocation.

"The implications of that are so drastic that we feel something should be done immediately to avoid political anarchy," Mr Hambley said.

Arbitration move by Oxford staff rejected

Oxford University is refusing to support a joint reference to the Conciliation and Arbitration Service to settle a pay dispute involving six hundred members of its clerical and administrative staff.

The university's governing body has told the joint staff committee that it will not commit itself to accepting the results of arbitration. The university says it will implement its offer of a 2 1/2 per cent increase, but the staff are seeking another 12 per cent in line with the National and Local Government Officers' Association pay scales in local authorities.

Sixth-formers to undertake special research

About 2,000 sixth-formers and technical college students will volunteer next year to carry out investigations outside their normal studies.

The scheme, begun by the Associated Examining Board, has produced research work of a quality that has surprised the examiners. An engineering student who did research into hops produced a report which a hop-growing expert described as one of the finest on the subject he had ever read.

The aim of the examination, known as the alternative Ordinary level examination in general studies, is to safeguard sixth-formers against narrow specialisation.

Left-handedness, accidents on motor cycles, discrimination against women, and the social effects of a coalmine closure are among the subjects approved. The board has excluded such topics as a study of good and evil because it was considered vague and far beyond the individual's range, and drug addiction, which might bring researchers into contact with undesirable influences.

The board said yesterday that more sixth-formers were showing interest. Only 300 took part in a pilot scheme in 1969.

Botterill takes lead in chess contest

From a Chess Correspondent Llangennech, Dyfed

After a quiet start to the play-off tournament for the British Chess Championship at Llangennech, Dyfed, a clear leader emerged in the second round yesterday when G. S. Botterill outplayed A. J. Mestel and broke through with a sudden mating attack to win in 31 moves. Botterill now has 1 1/2 points from two games and is followed by M. J. Horgan, M. E. Stean and A. H. Williams, with 1 out of 2; R. Bellin and W. R. Hartson, with 1 out of 2; and Mestel, with 1 out of 2. Results: Round 1: Stean v Horgan, French defence; Horgan v Stean, French; Botterill v Mestel, Sicilian; Bellin v Hartson, defence; Mestel v Hartson, Sicilian; Horgan v Botterill, Modern defence; black won.

Mr Foot faces driving summons

Magistrates at Brill, Buckinghamshire, are to deal today with a summons alleging careless driving against Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment. This follows a "damaging only" accident on October 11 when Mr Foot was reversing his car from the forecourt of a public house at Kingswood.

Yacht squadron cannon stolen

An ancient Chinese cannon which has adorned the battlements of the famous Royal Yacht Squadron headquarters, Cowes Castle, Isle of Wight, for 63 years, vanished before dawn yesterday.

Whitlam trade talks to begin in Brussels

Mr Whitlam will spend at least three days in Brussels, discussing Australia's trade relations with the Community and Belgium. Talks have been arranged with M. Franco Xavier Ortoles, President of the European Commission, Sir Christopher Soames, the Commissioner for External Relations, and Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister.

The discussions are expected to centre on Australia's vast reserves of natural mineral fuel resources, which include uranium and coal. A group of EEC nuclear experts recently visited Australia to sound out the possibilities of buying uranium, perhaps in exchange for technical expertise.

Also, Mr Whitlam will probably want to discuss the Community's beef import ban, which was introduced without warning or consultation with its trading partners. He points out that the Community cannot act in isolation and its trading attitudes seriously affect other parts of the world.

The EEC is Australia's second largest market for exports, the largest source of import, but the changing pattern of world trade has been such that Britain's share of Australia's total exports has fallen from 19 per cent in 1958-59 to less than 9 per cent now.

After his talks in Brussels, Whitlam travels to London Thursday for meetings with Wilson and other ministers. His first official visit to Europe will cover Paris, Moscow, Rostov, Athens, Belgrade and Val-

WEST EUROPE

M Chirac takes over party in defiance of Gaullist 'barons'

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 15

M Chirac, the Prime Minister, in a surprise move yesterday, asserted his control over the Gaullist party. At a hastily summoned meeting of the central committee of 105 members, he got himself elected secretary-general by a substantial majority.

He succeeds M Alexandre Sanguinetti, who has been increasingly under fire from Gaullist "barons" and militants for being too conciliatory towards President Giscard d'Estaing.

The election of M Chirac did not go unchallenged. M Chaban-Delmas, the former Prime Minister, described the resignation of M Sanguinetti, who only two days ago had insisted on his intention of standing for the post again, as a "masquerade"; and M Chirac's election as a coup de force.

Other Gaullist "barons" such as Couve de Murville, M Debré, and M Peyrefitte, disapproved of what they described as the Prime Minister's high-handed tactics. A former minister, M Robert Boulin, resigned from the party on the grounds that the election was "contrary to the democratic rules".

A meeting of the party's national council, which includes some 600 activists and provincial delegates, was delayed for several hours while the centre of the deliberated behind closed doors.

When the Prime Minister finally appeared before the national council, shouts of "vive Chirac" and "it's the end of the barons" from his supporters mingled with angry cries of "putsch" and "treason".

M Sanguinetti explained that he had resigned because it had become impossible to lead the movement, divided by too many personal ambitions, too many factions, plans, trends and deviators.

M Chirac, sensing the opposition to his storm tactics, spoke with the cold determination of one who is not to be deterred from a crucial gamble, similar to the one he made six months ago when he opposed the candidature of M Chaban-Delmas for the presidency.

"No one can claim seriously today that the policy of the Government is not inspired by the principles of Gaullism", he said. "I accepted the proposal of M Sanguinetti because I needed today, and in coming weeks, to be indissolubly linked to our movement. I felt I have the duty, if I wanted to carry out the business of government in the spirit I have always defended, to obtain the assent of the whole movement."

This morning, after M Chaban-Delmas had said he would reconsider his membership of the party if the secretary-general were not democratically elected at the next party congress in the spring, M Chirac issued a solemn appeal to all activists to "close ranks and work together to resume the action which has enabled us since 1958 to work for the benefit of France."

M Chirac's decision to take control of the party will not put an end to the dissension within the ranks, which has been a state of cease to be one of its members. Other leading Gaullists may resign, but the Prime Minister seems certain of holding the vast majority.

According to the latest opinion poll, the number of persons pledged to the policy of President Giscard d'Estaing now exceeds those contented.

The Public Affairs poll published by L'Avance shows 47 per cent dissatisfied, 45 per cent satisfied, and 8 per cent without an opinion. These figures represent a drop of 3 per cent in M Giscard d'Estaing's popularity since October.

On the other hand, 49 per cent still have confidence in the President for the future, as against 40 per cent who do not, and 11 per cent who do not know.

Gen Haig takes over as Nato chief in Europe

Casteau, Belgium, Dec 15.—General Alexander Haig, the former White House chief of staff, who took over today as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, asked to be judged by his performance and said he saw no reason why his connexion with Watergate should interfere.

Before the takeover ceremony at allied headquarters, the general, who assumed command of American troops in Europe last month, said reporters: "I feel qualified for this job. I am enthusiastic and I am prepared to give it my best. I would like to be judged by my performance and not by any internal inhibitions any of you may have in respect of how I got here."

Gen Haig takes over as Nato chief in Europe

His visit was a private one. Although the international committee of Amnesty knew about it, he was not acting on its behalf, still less for the West German branch of the organization.

He was responding to an appeal from relatives of some of the prisoners, and took care, he said, to adopt a "neutral" posture.

Mr Oestricher, whose German background has left him with perfect command of the language, was permitted to interview, among others, the four surviving members of the gang's "hard-core", including Herr Andreas Baader and Frau Meinhof. All four are on hunger strike in Stammheim prison, Stuttgart, where he saw them.

Mr Oestricher's assessment of the conditions in which the four are being detained pending their trial in the spring differs from that of M Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher, who was granted an hour's interview with Herr Baader earlier this month.

Amnesty chief differs with M Sartre on 'torture'

M Sartre used the word "torture" to describe Herr Baader's treatment. Mr Oestricher said that the overall detention conditions in West Germany were no better or worse than in any comparable country and did not generally justify complaints. But he took the view that the four alleged leaders were being subjected to an unnecessary degree of social isolation within the prison.

This, he felt, lay at the heart of the hunger strike by 31 alleged members of the gang in five prisons, including Stammheim. A month ago the fifth alleged member of the hard-core died in prison after eight weeks of fasting. His death was followed by a number of "revenge" acts of terrorism, including the murder of a west Berlin judge.

Mr Oestricher said the hunger strikers wanted the four Stammheim prisoners to be granted treatment equal to that enjoyed by the rest of the suspects.

The four main suspects appreciated that the nature of the crimes of which they are accused made it inevitable that they would be subject to specially rigorous security. They have been charged with five murders, 54 attempted murders and sundry other offences including political bombings. But they objected to their isolation.

Whitlam trade talks to begin in Brussels

From David Cross Brussels, Dec 15

In recognition of Australia's changed relations with Europe since Britain became a member of the EEC, Mr Gough Whitlam, the Prime Minister, today made Brussels the first port of call of his five-week tour of Europe capitals. In the past, Australia's leaders customarily had travelled to London first.

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Triumph for Mme Veil on French Abortion Bill

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 15

Mme Simone Veil, the Minister of Health, again earned her reputation as "the only man in the Government" by obtaining a surprisingly large majority for her Abortion Bill in the Senate early on Sunday morning.

It was expected to have a much rougher passage there than in the National Assembly two weeks ago.

The Bill was carried by 181 votes to 91. The Communists and Socialists supported it, but the Government's own majority was divided with only about half the Gaullists, Independent Republicans and the Centrists voting in favour.

The unexpected success was due once again to the courage and tenacity of M. Veil, to whom opponents supporters all paid homage.

Gen Haig takes over as Nato chief in Europe

His visit was a private one. Although the international committee of Amnesty knew about it, he was not acting on its behalf, still less for the West German branch of the organization.

He was responding to an appeal from relatives of some of the prisoners, and took care, he said, to adopt a "neutral" posture.

Mr Oestricher, whose German background has left him with perfect command of the language, was permitted to interview, among others, the four surviving members of the gang's "hard-core", including Herr Andreas Baader and Frau Meinhof. All four are on hunger strike in Stammheim prison, Stuttgart, where he saw them.

Italian news at entertainment hit by strikes

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Dec 15

Strikes by the journalists, entertainment world's theatres and cinemas today prevented the issue of papers and news bulletins the second day.

The complete news blinds briefly tonight. The journalists' leaders have called another two days strike, week and the printers' union quite independently, have called for a 24-hour strike beginning tomorrow night.

\$1.2m church for African liberation group

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Dec 15

The World Council Churches says that its church aid commission given African liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau (about £521,000) in agricultural and educational over the past three years.

The programme, set from grants made through Council's special fund to bar racism, is almost completely covered by donations from churches and governments in Africa, the West Indies, America, Europe and Zealand.

YOUR CHRISTMAS TELEPHONE

Dial direct over Christmas

Six thousand automatic exchanges throughout the United Kingdom will be fully at your service this Christmas and will handle over thirty million inland Christmas calls.

This year a massive extension of direct international dialling will be in service. Over six million subscribers can now dial twentyfour countries.

INLAND CALLS DIALLED DIRECT
All inland dialled calls will be at the Cheap Rate from 6 pm Christmas Eve until 8 am December 27. (In Scotland only: 6 pm Christmas Eve to 8 am Boxing Day, and 6 pm New Year's Eve to 8 am January 2.)

NOTE The Standard Rate for operator controlled calls will apply from 6 pm December 24 until midnight December 26 in England, Northern Ireland and Wales; and in Scotland throughout Christmas Day and from 6 pm December 31 until midnight January 1.

INTERNATIONAL CALLS DIALLED DIRECT

For most dialled international calls Cheap Rate will be from 8 pm Christmas Eve to 6 am December 27. (Scotland: 8 pm Christmas Eve to 6 am Boxing Day, and 8 pm New Year's Eve to 6 am January 2.)

To help you make the fullest use of the extensive automatic facilities, we ask you to note the following points:

Consult your dialling instruction booklet, or seek assistance now.

Your booklet will tell you what direct dialling facilities are available from your telephone.

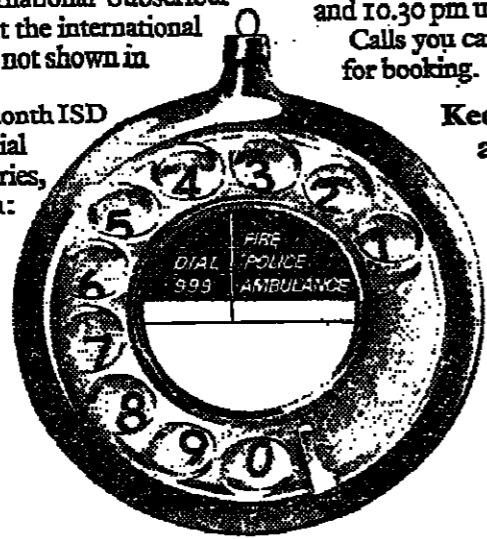
It lists the dialling codes of United Kingdom exchanges and the main exchanges abroad which can be dialled by you direct.

On Christmas Day (New Year's Day in Scotland) there will be fewer operators on duty, so please make any directory enquiries now.

If your telephone has International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) facilities consult the international operator now for dialling codes not shown in your dialling booklet.

Since the beginning of this month ISD subscribers have been able to dial direct to these additional countries, using the Country codes shown:

- Australia (010 61)
- Hong Kong (010 852)
- Israel (010 972)
- New Zealand (010 64)
- Singapore (010 65)
- South Africa (010 27).



Keep this near you as a reminder

Post Office telecommunications

Remember it pays to dial direct where you can

YOUR CHRISTMAS TELEGRAMS

On Christmas Day and Boxing Day (Christmas Day and New Year's Day in Scotland) all inland telegrams deliveries by hand, telephone or telex will be suspended.

Special arrangements will be made to deliver 'life and death' messages. Telegrams will continue to be accepted by telephone throughout the period.

Outside Scotland normal Bank Holiday deliveries will apply on January 1. In Scotland Sunday delivery arrangements will apply on Boxing Day and January 2.

هكذا من الأصل

Egypt's call for 50-year ban on Israel immigration will be diplomatic exercise' for peace

By Paul Martin
Jerusalem, Dec 15

Egypt's stringent new conditions for peace, including a 50-year ban on immigration to Israel, are an answer to Israel's "transgression" on the Palestine issue, according to well-placed Egyptian sources.

But they point out that the conditions are more an exercise in diplomacy than an exercise in demands to be presented at negotiating table.

The Egyptians believe that progress on the Palestinian issue will be necessary to take search for peace in the Middle East a stage further. They remain committed to the "step by step" approach of Dr. Shimon Peres, the American Secretary of State, but fear that the present impasse in the peace negotiations has gained so much momentum that it could be lost.

His latest Egyptian policy statement reflects the growing distance between the Arab states and Israel, which has remained hostile over the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for the Israelis have stood in their refusal either to recognize the PLO or to accept the voice of the Palestinians.

In this context, Mr. Fahmy's statement may be regarded as a challenge to the United States and the Soviet Union of their recent agreement on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, which forms part of the detente arrangements.

According to well-placed Egyptian sources, President Sadat and his advisers recognize that it would be impossible

to dictate Israel's immigration policy. "However, the PLO is a fact and Arab recognition of it is also a fact," an Egyptian source said. "The PLO has appeared at the United Nations and a favourable resolution has been won. Israel's unreasonableness can only be answered in kind."

Although the Arabs demand a PLO voice in future negotiations, it has been agreed that in the initial stages Egypt could speak on the PLO's behalf. However, having committed itself to a solution to the Palestine issue, Egypt believes there must be some tangible progress on this question before it can enter the next stage of peace negotiations.

Jerusalem, Dec 15.—Israel is seeking clarification through diplomatic channels of Mr. Fahmy's statement calling for a 50-year immigration ban, authoritative sources said today. It was believed that Israel had put questions to the United States to pass on to Egypt.

Israel newspapers all reacted angrily to the speech, saying that the demand was tantamount to an Egyptian refusal to accept Israel's existence.

Mr. Menachem Begin, leader of the opposition Likud Party, said: "What Fahmy offers us is a choice between liquidation and liquidation. This should conclude our internal (Israel) argument as to whether Egypt is one of the moderate or extreme Arab states."—Reuter and UPI.

Miami police check Stonehouse blood group

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Police in Miami are checking the blood group of Mr John Stonehouse, the missing British MP, against a blood sample found on a concrete "cuffin" which seems to have been used in a Mafia-style killing.

It is unlikely that the blood checks could provide any positive evidence of a link between the disappearance and the discovery of the concrete cast—which is known to have contained a body. But if the blood groups were found to differ it could at least rule out any connexion.

The Foreign Office is being kept informed of developments in the hunt for the missing MP through their consul in Miami, Mr D. W. M. Pierotti. He is said to be in daily contact with the police.

The concrete slab was taken to the beach not far from the spot where Mr Stonehouse disappeared after apparently entering the water for swim. But the body inside it was removed and the cast broken up before police could inspect it.

Part of the concrete was left behind on the beach and the rest was removed to a warehouse at Fort Lauderdale.

Grain for India

Delhi, Dec 15.—The United States will supply India with 300,000 tonnes of foodgrain, Mr Daniel Moynihan, the United States Ambassador, told a press conference today.—Reuter.



President Ford enjoying a swim in Martinique yesterday, guarded by a French gendarme.

Mr Smith speaks of multiracial rule

Continued from page 1

We have got to accept that Rhodesia is going to be governed by all the people, white as well as blacks, and I believe that this is what is going to come. It would be a tragedy if we go to a stage where one day there was white rule and the next day there was black rule.

"I believe we have got to bring the African in or take him along with us." This was nothing revolutionary. He had always said that, if he found Africans of ability and merit, he would be prepared to give them a chance. But, because of the attitude of extremists, so many had been unwilling to cooperate.

Asked if he was thinking in terms of parity in three years and majority rule in five, Mr Smith said such thoughts had never entered his head and he did not think they ever would.

He discounted the prospect of Mr Callaghan, the British Foreign Secretary, visiting Rhodesia on his forthcoming African tour. He described as sensible the South African decision to withdraw its paramilitary police units in the event of the ceasefire being effective. Relations between Rhodesia and South Africa were warm, he said, and there was no question of South Africa having "pulled the rug out" from under Rhodesia.

Mr Mugabe, who was formerly secretary-general of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and is regarded as one of the most influential of the former detainees, talking

to be today squashed convincingly speculation of a rift and a power struggle between himself and the Rev Ndlovu. Mr Ndlovu, the leader of Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). The speculation arose from the fact that Mr Ndlovu was not one of the Zanu representatives at the initial discussions in Lusaka.

The viewpoint of the Zanu leadership, Mr Mugabe said, had been that they would not attend any negotiations as prisoners. Then a second written invitation arrived from President Kaunda, President Nyerere, President Seretse Khama and Mr Samora Machel, the Mozambique leader. "We did not want to show rudeness," Mr Mugabe said. "Certainly the whole idea was repugnant to us. We had been told there had been talks with Vorster and that sort of thing and just imagine our feelings then. So our executive decided to send two lesser people, myself and Morton Malianga, to hear what it was all about."

They reported back to the Zanu executive in jail. "We recommended what we wanted was for us to try this exercise and if it failed, then to resort to military action". Mr Mugabe said.

As a result Mr Ndlovu attended the second round of negotiations in Lusaka and agreed to unite with Zanu and try to negotiate a settlement. The negotiation exercise had been forced on Zanu, he said, but they would do their best to make it successful. He was confident that the alliance established with the other nationalist groups would prevail.

Israel war hero gives up parliamentary seat

Moshe Brilliant
Jerusalem, Dec 15

Major-General Ariel Sharon, who led the successful Israeli counter-offensive across the Canal in the October 1973 war, resigned his seat in Parliament today to enable him to accept a military appointment in the reserves. The Army announced he was being given a senior emergency appointment.

at a meeting of his party, the Likud, General Sharon said he feared Israel faced the possibility of a difficult war that might be crucial for the survival of the Jewish nation. "Anyone who is able to contribute to the security effort must do so."

He said he had wanted to return to the regular army but was not accepted.

He said today he would be active politically as long as he was not called up.

Attack trial postponed again

Jerusalem, Dec 15.—The trial of 92 charged with the attack on the Israeli military technical school last April, put off until January 18.

Sams drive off Israeli aircraft

Beirut, Dec 15.—Four Israeli aircraft were driven off by surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft fire during a raid into Lebanon today. The aircraft flew westward towards Tyre, Sidon and Beirut.—Reuter.

Full text of Nato foreign ministers' communiqué

Brussels, Dec 15.—Following is the text of the final communiqué issued by Nato foreign ministers at the end of their meeting in Brussels on Friday. The North Atlantic Council met in its 13th session in Brussels and 13th December, 1974, to close the year which the twenty-fifth anniversary of the alliance, ministers noted satisfaction that member states remain firmly committed to the alliance and that this had been expressed in the declaration.

Ministers reviewed developments in East-West relations. They noted progress, albeit uneven, over the past six months. They stated their readiness to continue their efforts to make progress in their negotiations and to work with the Soviet Union and other Pact countries aimed at improvement in East-West relations.

Ministers noted the increase in military strength of the Warsaw Pact countries, and bearing in mind the importance of the policy of detente, stressed their determination to maintain their own defensive strength.

Ministers had a broad discussion of the current situation for the maintenance of the alliance and noted the progress made at both the national and international levels to meet the difficulties confronting the economies of the allied countries.

Ministers affirmed their determination to seek appropriate solutions through cooperation and confidence which characterise their relations. Ministers expressed their readiness to continue to consult on questions of economic security on areas within the competence of the member states.

Ministers noted that at the common security and cooperation in Europe there had been progress to show that substantial results were possible. None the less, important questions remain to be resolved.

Ministers expressed the urgent determination of their countries to work patiently and actively towards balanced and mutually beneficial results under all circumstances. They concluded that the only way to bring about a whole as soon as may be.

Ministers noted the progress of the participating states in Vienna on mutual force reductions. They agreed to continue to work objectively to contribute to a stable relationship and to the signing of peace treaties in Europe, and their mutual advance detente.

Ministers were resolved to pursue negotiations with a view to undiminished security forces, at a lower level of central Europe. They reaffirmed their commitment to the pursuit of approximate parity of force for the ground forces in the area of reduction. They considered that a first step in this direction would be to reach an agreement covering the States and Soviet forces in Europe. They considered this a practical first step in this direction.

Ministers noted that the negotiations had not produced results to the satisfaction of the allied countries. They reaffirmed their intention to continue to work

to which they adhere in these negotiations that Nato forces should not be reduced except in the context of a mutual and balanced force reduction agreement with the East.

Ministers heard a report from the United States Secretary of State on the continuing United States efforts towards the further limitation of strategic offensive arms in the light of President Ford's recent call for a "New Geneva". They noted with satisfaction the significant progress towards the achievement of a "New Geneva". They expressed the hope that this progress will lead to the early conclusion of a satisfactory SALT II agreement. They also expressed appreciation for continuing consultations within the alliance with respect to the SALT negotiations.

Ministers reviewed the developments concerning Berlin and Germany which have taken place since their last meeting in June, 1974, especially as regards the application of the provisions of the quadripartite agreement relating to the Western sectors of Berlin.

They considered, in particular, the traffic and ties between the Western sectors and the Federal Republic of Germany and the representation abroad of the interests of those sectors by the Federal Republic of Germany.

They emphasized the importance to the visibility and security of the city of all the provisions of the quadripartite agreement. The ministers also emphasized that there is an essential connexion between detente in Europe and the situation relating to Berlin.

Ministers expressed their concern about the situation in the Middle East which could have dangerous consequences for world peace and thus for the security of the members of the alliance. They reaffirmed the overriding importance they attach to fresh progress towards a just and lasting peace to this area. They likewise welcomed the contributions which allied governments continue to make to United Nations peace-keeping activities.

Ministers noted the report on the situation in the Mediterranean prepared by the Permanent Council on their instructions. They found the instability in the area disquieting, warranting special vigilance on the part of the allies. They invited the Permanent Council to continue consultations on this subject and to report further.

As regards Greek-Turkish relations, ministers heard a report by the Secretary General under the terms of his watching brief established by the ministerial session of May, 1964. They expressed their hope that relations between these two allied countries would rapidly return to normal.

Ministers noted the progress of the work of the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society especially on solar and geothermal energy resources, improved water pollution, improved waste disposal, urban transport and health care.

Ministers also noted the start of projects on the disposal of hazardous wastes and action to follow up completed CCMS studies on the prevention of ocean oil spills, road safety improvement, cleaner air and purer river water, thus enhancing the quality of life for their citizens.

Ministers directed the Council in permanent session to consider and decide on the date and place of the spring session of the ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council.—Reuter.

Leading article, page 13



In some parts of the world, it's still feeding five thousand.

We haven't really come very far in the last two thousand years. In most parts of the world, people are still poor. Still underfed. Still waiting for a miracle to happen.

Unfortunately, the last few years haven't been too good for miracles. So, even at Christmas, some of us go hungry while the rest of us eat. Some of

us go thirsty, while the rest of us drink. At times, the world doesn't seem a very fair place, does it? If you agree, perhaps you'll do something to help restore the balance this Christmas.

That doesn't just mean giving the hungry food. It means giving them the means to grow it. A few tractors here. Some seed grain there. Somewhere

else, maybe an agricultural school. None of this would be possible, though, without money. And that's one of the few things Heaven doesn't yet provide.

Christian Aid.
Christian Aid, PO Box 1, London SW1.
Giro Number 5563151.

OVERSEAS

Greece to close down foreign bases not needed for its defence

From Mario Modiano Athens, Dec 15

Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, has informed Parliament that all foreign military bases which do not serve the defence interests of Greece will have to be withdrawn. He made the declaration yesterday while winding up a four-day debate on his Government's policy, which resulted in a 217 to 78 vote of confidence.

The relevance of some American installations to Greece's national defence, such as the home port of six destroyers of the Sixth Fleet at Elefsis, could be enhanced eventually considering that the modernization of the Greek armed forces has a high priority in the Government's programme and the balance of payments position is weakening.

Gen Ghizikis resigns presidency in Athens

From Our Correspondent Athens, Dec 15

General Phaidon Ghizikis, who was appointed President of Greece by the junta which seized power on Nov 25, 1973, has placed his resignation at the disposal of Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, it was officially announced tonight.



A policeman, holding a confiscated pistol, sits on top of a demonstrator during a Boston school busing riot on Saturday.

Six held in riot over school busing

Boston, Dec 15.—Six people were arrested and several injured yesterday when about 3,000 marchers supporting school busing attempted to breach a police line and enter a restricted shopping area.

Meanwhile, South Boston High School and seven other schools in the area will remain closed tomorrow because of racial tensions. More than 1,000 whites clashed with police at the high school on Wednesday after a white pupil was stabbed.

Approved by police and hurled themselves at the cordon. After a dash, in which bottles and stones were thrown and one man brandished a revolver, the marchers withdrew and rejoined several thousand other demonstrators who had stayed on the approved route.

Advertisement for 'NO PEPE THE other sherry'. It features a large, stylized 'NO PEPE' logo and an image of a bottle of sherry.

'Political motive' in move to deport John Lennon

From William P. Jones Washington, Dec 15

John Lennon's complex legal struggle against deportation is now nearing its third year, and there are growing indications that the Immigration and Naturalization Service responded to political pressure in deciding to press its case against the former Beatle.

Chinese restive over US link with Taiwan

From David Bonavia Peking, Dec 15

The United States could solve the Taiwan issue by an arrangement similar to that which Japan has with China, senior officials in Peking are reported to have told Senator Mike Mansfield during his visit last week.

Cholera isolates Kenyan city

Nairobi, Dec 15.—The Kenyan government today ordered Kisumu, a city on the shores of Lake Victoria, to be isolated in an attempt to contain a cholera epidemic which has claimed 30 lives.

In brief

- Police found dead: Moncton, New Brunswick, Dec 15.—The bodies of two policemen who disappeared while investigating the kidnapping of a 14-year-old boy last week were found in a shallow grave.
Cuba holds hijacker: Tampa, Florida, Dec 15.—A man who hijacked a light aircraft from here to Cuba was held in custody in Havana. The pilot was unharmed in the first incident since the United States-Cuba anti-hijack agreement of early 1973.
28 rioters jailed: Rangoon, Dec 15.—Special military courts sentenced 28 more people to three years' jail for destroying public property in riots last week. On Friday 35 people received prison sentences.
Ford grants reduced: New York, Dec 15.—The Ford Foundation is to reduce its grants over the next four years by more than half because of the declining value of its investments and a decision to stop spending capital.
Israel snubs Unesco: Jerusalem, Dec 15.—Mr Allon, Israel's Foreign Minister, said his country had suspended its financial contribution to Unesco because of the organization's anti-Israeli stance.
Angola party split: Luanda, Dec 15.—The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola has announced the expulsion of Mr Daniel Chipinda, who leads a faction opposed to Dr Agostinho Neto, the chairman.
Vietnam town falls: Saigon, Dec 15.—Communist troops seriously threatened a government militia base about 70 miles north-east of Saigon today after overrunning the district town of Duc Phong.

Apartheid 'must give way in face of changes'

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Dec 15

The South African Government is "clobbering" the press to divert the attention of its supporters from the consequences it is making, Mr Laurence Gardiner, former editor of the Rand Daily Mail, said here at the weekend.

Thai electors have choice of 42 political parties

From Our Correspondent Bangkok, Dec 15

Nearly 2,200 candidates have registered in what promises to be one of Thailand's most confusing elections. Already, 42 political parties have registered, a world record, for the general election next month.

Aggression is defined by United Nations

New York, Dec 15.—The United Nations General Assembly yesterday adopted without a vote a definition of the term "aggression".

Aggression is defined by United Nations

conclude that a determination that an act of aggression has been committed would not be justified in the light of other relevant circumstances including the fact that the acts concerned or their consequences are not of sufficient gravity.

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 02 only outside London Metropolitan Area

A large section of the page containing various entertainment listings. It is organized into columns and sections: 'OPERA AND BALLET' (listing Covent Garden, Royal Opera House, etc.), 'THEATRES' (listing Adelphi, Apollo, etc.), 'CONCERTS' (listing Royal Albert Hall, etc.), and 'CINEMAS' (listing various film venues). Each listing includes showtimes, cast members, and brief descriptions of the productions.

Advertisement for 'GONZALEZ BYASS' sherry. It features a large, stylized logo and an image of a bottle of sherry. The text includes 'GONZALEZ BYASS' and 'SHERRY'.

Advertisement for 'LA CONCHA SHERRY'. It features a large, stylized logo and an image of a bottle of sherry. The text includes 'LA CONCHA SHERRY'.

Advertisement for 'BRISIDE SHERRY'. It features a large, stylized logo and an image of a bottle of sherry. The text includes 'BRISIDE SHERRY'.

Advertisement for 'DOMINICO SHERRY'. It features a large, stylized logo and an image of a bottle of sherry. The text includes 'DOMINICO SHERRY'.

Advertisement for 'EQUUS'. It features a large, stylized logo and an image of a horse. The text includes 'EQUUS' and 'The National Theatre at the Old Vic'.

Advertisement for 'EQUUS'. It features a large, stylized logo and an image of a horse. The text includes 'EQUUS' and 'The National Theatre at the Old Vic'.

Appointments

GENERAL VACANCIES

RENT FREE MODERN FLAT in North London available for CHAUFFEUR

Chairman of well known International Company seeks experienced Chauffeur. Salary £45 p.w. Write Box 0037 M, The Times.

APPEALS ORGANIZERS

required male or female by well known Charity. Quality of staff and quality of work are essential. Experience in active church, charity, or political work essential. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

MARKET RESEARCH

Our client, a leading British company, seeks two graduates with a minimum two years experience in a research company. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

Telephone Andrew Bateman on 01-584 3615

GRADUATE MEN

Man of 21+ with either a level 3 certificate and previous statistical experience or a degree in statistics. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

MARKETING STATISTICS ASSISTANT

Man of 21+ with either a level 3 certificate and previous statistical experience or a degree in statistics. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

TRAINEE TRADER

Don't condemn yourself to a job of the mill. Join the most exciting and profitable career in the City. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

RESPONSIBLE COUPLE

Accommodation for wife with two children. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

EXPERIENCED CHAUFFEURS

Wanted urgently experienced Chauffeurs for London. Salary £45 p.w. plus expenses.

TRANSLATOR ALGERIA

TECHNICAL TRANSLATOR (English/French) required for long-term contract. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

25 Charing Cross Road, 01-436 3794/6.

"GET INTO OIL"

Where you are interested, we are offering a variety of international oil company careers. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

DRAKE PERSONNEL

YOUNG MAN required as General Assistant. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

MARKETING COORDINATOR

FOR OVERSEAS OPPORTUNITIES in London. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

NEW YEAR IN NEW CAREER

Director of Career Guidance. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

ADMINISTRATOR

Director of Career Guidance. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

RETIRED POST TECHNOLOGIST

Interested in new career? Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

CONVEYANCING CLERK

£3,000 Male/female, age immaterial. Salary £3,000 p.w. plus expenses.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ALANGATE LEGAL STAFF have many vacancies. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

SALES AND MARKETING

LIFE SCIENCE AT 40: A National Company seeks mature executives. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

ACCOUNTANCY

AGAS and finalists wanted for 50 temporary positions. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

TEACHERS FOR FINLAND AND ITALY. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

ZOOLOGY GRADUATE

Urgently required for January, 1975. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Macquarie University SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of New England Armidale, New South Wales. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Cambridge LADY MARGARET'S PROFESSORSHIP OF DIVINITY. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Cambridge PROFESSORSHIP OF GEOGRAPHY. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Cape Town DIRECTOR OF THE CHAMBER OF MINES RESEARCH UNIT. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Rhodes University GRAHAMSTOWN SOUTH AFRICA. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE AND SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London CONVEYANCING CLERK. Salary £3,000 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London TRANSLATOR ALGERIA. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London MULTILINGUAL SERVICES. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

LEEDS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

The Governors of Leeds Girls' High School (Direct Grant Grammar School of 850 girls) invite applications for the position of Bursar and Clerk.

Bursar and Clerk

to the Governors to take effect from 1st September 1975. Commencing salary to be agreed and to be in accordance with age, qualifications and experience.

Forms of application (to be returned by 31st January 1975) and further information may be obtained from The Clerk to the Governors, Leeds Girls' High School, Headingly Hill, Leeds 6.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

NORWICH SCHOOL

The Governors invite applications for the post of Headmaster which becomes vacant in September, 1975, on the appointment of Mr Stuart Andrews as Headmaster of Clifton College.

Details of the school will be found in the Public and Preparatory Schools Year Book. Further particulars of the appointment will be sent on request. The salary will be in accordance with qualifications and experience, but will be not less than that for a Bursar/Group IX school, together with appropriate allowances.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

SENIOR LECTURESHIP IN LAW

Applications are invited for a Senior Lectureship in Law. The salary scale is R8,450 to R11,250. Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory medical certificate.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Aberdeen RESEARCH FELLOW. Applications are invited for a research fellow position. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Sydney CHAIR OF VETERINARY SURGERY. Applications are invited for the Chair of Veterinary Surgery. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Queensland READER/SENIOR LECTURER IN MARKETING. Applications are invited for a reader/senior lecturer position. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Rhodes University GRAHAMSTOWN SOUTH AFRICA. Applications are invited for the position of Lecturer in Pharmaceutics. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London TRANSLATOR ALGERIA. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London MULTILINGUAL SERVICES. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London CONVEYANCING CLERK. Salary £3,000 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London TRANSLATOR ALGERIA. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of London MULTILINGUAL SERVICES. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 23

GENERAL

WHO THRIVES ON RESPONSIBILITY has an excellent telephone voice and is capable of working on own initiative?

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reporting directly to Marketing Manager. He or she will be the link with our many customers, so the broad knowledge and excellent voice will reflect on the good name of our Company.

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FINANCIAL ANALYST

Our client, a leading British manufacturing firm, seeks a financial analyst. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

WEDGWOOD—GERED

Requires intelligent person to sell China to overseas visitors in their Regent Street and Piccadilly shops. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIES IN CORPORATE FINANCE. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

ESTATE AGENT IN CHELSEA

requires young, enthusiastic and hard working Negotiator to sell or advise on residential property. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

FRENCH-SPEAKING AUDIO TYPIST

£2,400 available for a French-speaking audio typist. Salary £2,400 p.w. plus expenses.

A LIKING FOR LOVELY THINGS MANAGERESS

preferably with previous experience in this field. Good salary and benefits. Salary £2,500 p.w. plus expenses.

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"We are monks, not businessmen, and we depend on Midland Bank advice and support"

-Dom Dyfrig Rushton, Abbot of Prinknash Abbey nr Gloucester



The old Abbey of Prinknash has existed in one form or another for over a thousand years.

The historic old house with 25 acres was given to the Benedictine Community on Caldey Island off South Wales in 1928.

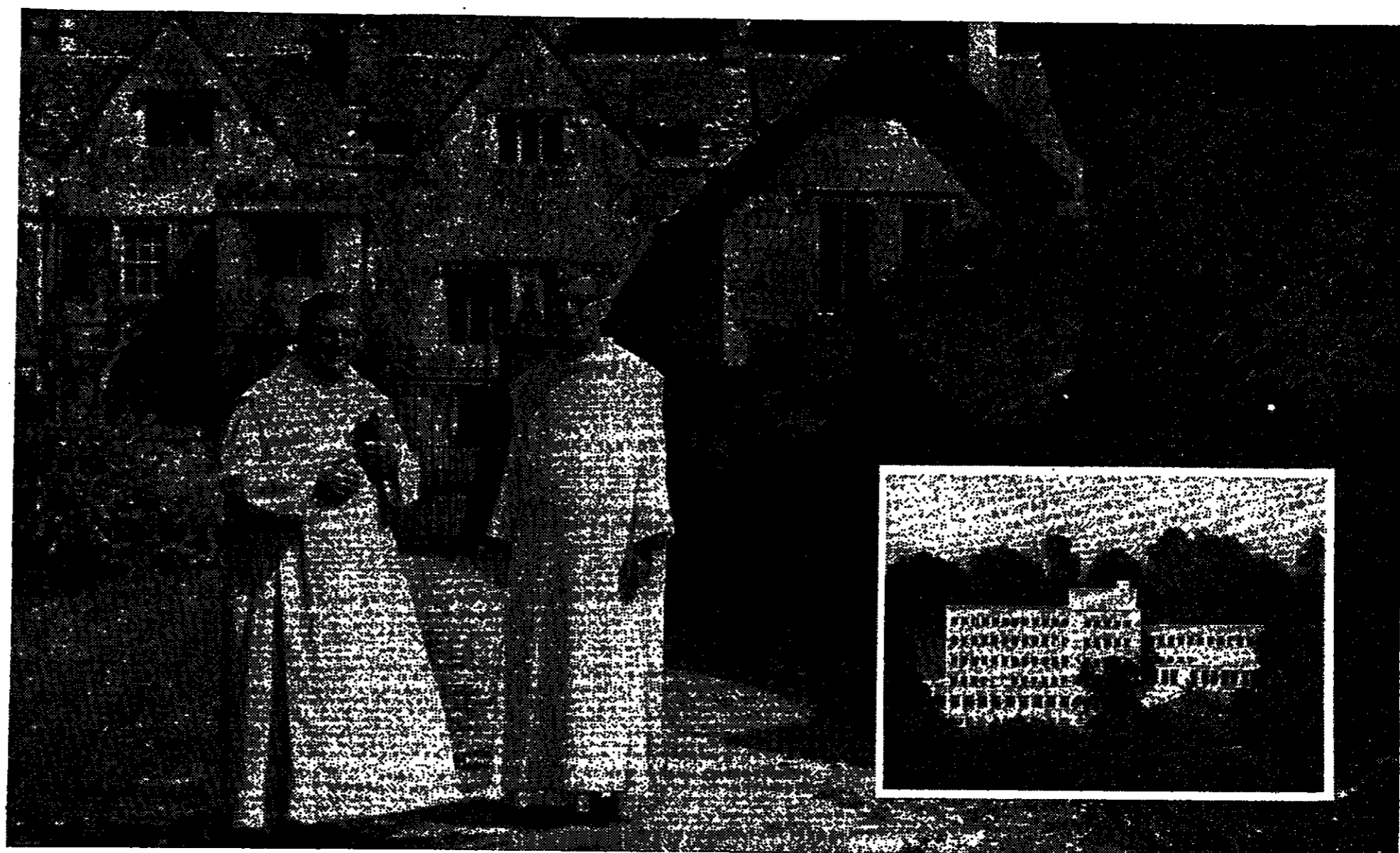
In 1922, while the community was still on Caldey Island, they opened an account with Midland Bank at Birmingham, later transferring it to Gloucester when they moved to Prinknash Abbey.

"Our community has to be self-supporting" says Father Leo, the Abbey's Bursar, "the Midland have always helped us when we needed help and we rely on their advice to keep us afloat."

The community moved to Prinknash in 1928, and their first concern was to build a larger home.

The foundation stone was laid in 1939. But war delayed work, and the new Abbey was only finished in 1972, the monks themselves carrying out all the ironwork, glasswork and organ building.

On the advice of their bank manager, they deposited capital with Midland Bank Finance Corporation, where it



continued to earn money until it was required to pay contractors' costs.

They also needed to make the Abbey economically viable. Gradually they established a 300-acre farm, with pigs, poultry, and dairy and beef herds.

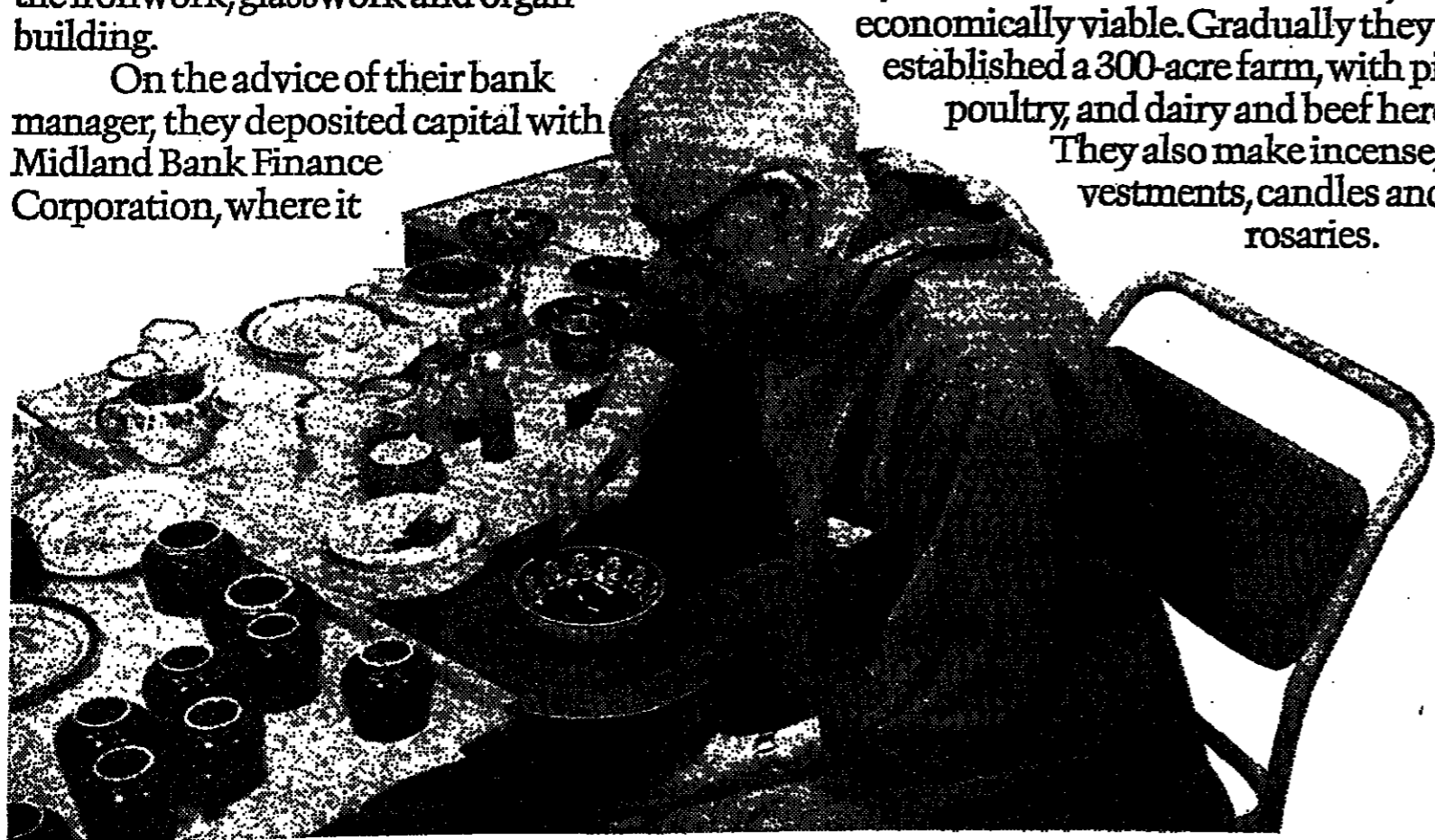
They also make incense, vestments, candles and rosaries.

Midland Bank also help the Abbey with this export business, carrying out all the necessary documentation on its behalf.

Today, Prinknash Abbey is a thriving community, with other foundations at Farnborough Abbey and Pluscarden Abbey in Scotland.

"Making ends meet isn't always easy," says Dom Dyfrig Rushton, present Abbot of Prinknash, "especially since our religious duties take precedence over every other activity."

"We are monks, not businessmen, and we depend on Midland Bank for advice and support."



Prinknash pottery.

But the Abbey's main source of income today is the new pottery, built with financial help from the Midland. The craft started when excavating the new Abbey foundations revealed a rich seam of clay.

"At first, we made pottery for our own use," says Father Fabian. "But the idea snowballed, and today we have a world-wide export business in decorative and domestic tableware, tankards and candleholders—all designed by Brother Thomas."



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UNIVERSITIES FEEL THE PINCH

The financial condition of many universities, and indeed of higher education in general, is fast approaching a critical state, as Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, recognized when he announced last week that universities would receive an additional grant of £15m in the academic year 1974-75. In the past few months there have been unmistakable signs of the precariousness of their finances. Large and growing deficits in current expenditure have been tolerated, presumably in the strength of the hope that at the end of the University Grants Committee will have no alternative but to bridge the budgetary gap. London is now faced with a deficit of £6m and Manchester, Leeds, Bristol and Oxford are also running into deficit. Professorial chairs that have fallen vacant have been left unfilled, and necessary maintenance and repairs have been postponed. So Mr Prentice's announcement is timely. Yet substantial economies will still be required at the universities, and the extra £5m will only help them to meet their inescapable commitments. Universities must bear their share of the twin burdens of inflation and the restraint on the growth of public expenditure. It is necessary to reduce it, to keep all services financed predominantly through public funds. Higher education must be satisfied with more modest goals, in its both financial support and plans for the future expansion of the system. Already the target for student numbers in 1980 has been named to match the harsher economic climate and a content fall in the demand from school leavers for places in higher education. In 1970 a Department of Education and Science planning paper predicted without any commitment for more policy—than more than 600 student places would be required in higher education in 1980. This projection was set downwards to 750,000 in Thatcher's White Paper pub-

lished in December, 1972. Last month Mr Prentice gave a new target of 640,000 student places at the end of the decade. According to the Government, a little embarrassed perhaps to announce a reduction from a figure that Labour spokesmen had criticized as too small less than two years earlier, this total of 640,000 places is still consistent with the Robbins principle that at no point between now (October 1963) and 1980 should the competition for university places become more severe. However, these successive reductions in the target for student places in higher education in 1980 represent cuts projected rather than actual expenditure. The universities face much more pressing financial difficulties. The source of those difficulties was the decision by Mr Barber almost a year ago, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, to refuse universities the expected supplementary grant to compensate for the effect of inflation. So while in the first year of the present quinquennium universities received full compensation for inflation, they were told that in the present year they would receive none. Fortunately Mr Prentice has intervened, and the extra £15m should restore about half of the value taken from the original grant by inflation. Even while it is granted that universities must accept their share of budgetary restraint, their present financial state gives rise to concern for two reasons. First, the effect of the present restraint is indiscriminate. The failure to compensate universities for inflation leaves them little choice but to cut across the board. For example, a university faced with a mounting deficit and the need to make immediate and effective cuts in expenditure is forced to resort to expedients such as allowing academic posts that become vacant to remain unfilled. If cuts must be made, and the consequent deterioration in standards accepted, universities should as far as possible be given the

opportunity to discriminate between what is central to their academic purposes and what is peripheral. In the present situation such discrimination is difficult or even impossible. Secondly, the method of financing universities is related intimately to their traditional autonomy. The institution of the University Grants Committee which serves as a buffer between the individual university and the state is renowned in other countries as an ingenious and typically British compromise to reconcile the often contrary principles of academic freedom and public accountability. Almost as important in this respect is the device of a fixed quinquennium whereby universities receive financial support from the Exchequer for a five-year period. The traditional wisdom is that this arrangement reinforces the independence of universities and allows them to make reasonably solid plans for the medium-term if not the long-term future. The progress of inflation has already undermined the device of a fixed quinquennium. If universities must rely on the UGC, and so on the state, for annual subsidies to restore the purchasing power of their budgets, then their autonomy is compromised and new obstacles are placed in the way of effective and rational planning, which is more, not less, essential in a time of budgetary restraint. Certainly the universities, in common with all higher education, cannot be insulated entirely from the colder economic climate. But the immediate savings in actual and projected expenditure that may be necessary should not be achieved at the cost of further erosion of their independence of the universities or their ability to discriminate or their ability to discriminate. Their present plight is an illustration of the inevitable strains that occur when a set of financial and administrative arrangements postulated confidently on rapid and continuous expansion must be adapted to a period of slow or no growth.

Britain and the Middle East

From the Editor of The Guardian
Sir, Your front page yesterday (December 14) carried reports that the Guardian's spokesman as saying that last week's Middle Eastern advertisement was rejected by us because we felt that it could encourage racial hatred. The Guardian's decision was taken in the light of recent experience over such advertisements, the last of which led to a round of recriminations in our columns between the Syrian and Israeli embassies. Unhappily you too now look like undergoing a similar experience. On behalf of The Guardian, may I state that we believe The Times to be entirely right in saying that the Board of Deputies of British Jews is making a mistake in reporting you to the Attorney-General. In so doing, the Board is seeking to deny to others a freedom to advertise their case which it has recently exercised itself. Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR HETHERINGTON,
The Guardian,
192 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
December 15.

Israel and Unesco's work

From the Editor-in-Chief of the Unesco Courier
Sir, I have read with surprise the letter to the Editor entitled "Exclusion of Israel from Unesco" published in The Times of December 5. I regret that such eminent personalities as Sir Julian Huxley (Unesco's first Director-General), Graham Greene, Henry Moore, Eric Crozier, Stephen Spender, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, K. R. Popper, and others have seen fit to co-sign a statement containing so many errors of fact. Israel has not been excluded from Unesco or from any of its regional groups. It is untrue to state that two resolutions regarding Israel passed by the last session of Unesco's General Conference "deprive Israel of the (previous) status as a full-fledged member of Unesco remains unchanged. By no stretch of the imagination is anyone excluded from Unesco, and Israel has been ousted from Unesco or deprived of its rights. It is equally untrue to state that Israel has been "excluded from all the regional activities of Unesco". The letter to The Times and any other European and other regional activities of Unesco in exactly the same manner as it has done year in and year out in the past. In this respect, Israel's situation is no different from that of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand prior to the last General Conference since these countries like Israel for many years belonged to no regional group. The second resolution referred to the preservation of the cultural heritage of Jerusalem. It was the culmination of six years of repeated Unesco appeals to Israel to cease its archaeological excavations and

Incitement to disaffection

From Mr J. R. Beevor
Sir, I the undersigned (to borrow the style of the National Council for Civil Liberties and its friends) consider that the Incitement to Disaffection Act 1934 is essential to the defence of the public interest. The sovereign people, having through the medium of their elected governments determined inter alia that they will oppose murder and rebellion in Northern Ireland, require an instrument for the execution of that policy. That instrument goes to Jerusalem to study and survey the situation on the spot. In May-June of this year the 94th session of Unesco's Executive Board voted to "condemn the persistent violation by Israel of the (previous) resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Conference and the Executive Board" and decided to submit the matter again to the 1974 General Conference. Thus, after six long years of patient effort the Unesco General Conference in its turn condemned Israel's attitude as "contradictory to the aims of the Organization as set out in its Constitution". The Conference voted to apply sanctions to Israel and withhold assistance in the fields of education, science and culture until such time as it scrupulously respects "previous Conference resolutions on the subject". The letter to The Times gives the impression that this was a sudden decision motivated by political considerations and a desire to "gang-up" on Israel. I trust your readers will now understand that such a conclusion is neither fair nor just. Unesco needs the help of all the world's scientists, scholars, educators, thinkers and artists as well as the support of public opinion of all countries. It is my sincere hope that the co-signatories of the letter published in The Times and any other persons or groups who may have envisaged suspending their participation in Unesco's work on the basis of erroneous information will revise their judgment and will continue to work with us on behalf of the noble principles for which Unesco stands. Yours faithfully,
S. M. KOFFLER, Editor-in-Chief,
Unesco Courier,
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
7 Place de Fontenay,
75700 Paris.
December 10.

WE WILL TO DEFEND EUROPE

security of Europe depends in no moment on maintaining a balance of power between east and west. This balance depends on a firm American commitment to Europe, and the commitment made on a sufficient number of American Congressmen being trained that Europe wishes to maintain a balance of power and prepared to carry an appropriate burden. Western Europe is not acting as if it were aware of these simple facts. The balance of power is necessary not because either side is thinking of launching an all-out attack against the other but only because political behaviour is influenced by military facts. A situation in which the nations knew they could take any action with impunity would gradually alter attitudes on both sides. It would render Western Europe much more amenable to pressures and its and might tempt the East to take risks. For once, if they were trying to pressure on the Americans

in some other part of the world, such as the Middle East, they might threaten Berlin. Nato therefore needs to be capable of a graduated flexible response and for this it needs the right mixture of conventional ground forces, tanks, tactical nuclear weapons. At the moment the figures show what looks like a substantial European contribution. Of the 788,000 Nato troops in central Europe only 190,000 are American. But the Pentagon is still worried and it still has difficulty in persuading Congress that the Europeans are doing enough. One reason is that Europe spends its money very badly. As Admiral Sir Peter Hill-Norton told Nato defence ministers in Brussels last week, there is an appalling lack of standardization and integration. National armies use different weapons and different ammunition and have almost wholly separate logistical systems. They also duplicate and waste their scientific effort. Britain stands out as spending a high proportion of her defence budget on research which does not lead to usable products. If

Nato governments spent their money better they could do a lot to maintain the military balance without enlarging their defence budgets. Equally worrying is the lack of general political awareness of the situation. This is reflected in the struggles which most governments have to maintain even their present level of military spending. The reason is not far to seek. Thirty years of peace and prosperity, coupled with recent moves towards détente with the Soviet Union, have persuaded a great many people that the military defence of western Europe is no longer important. This might be true if there were any sign that the Russians were turning their swords to ploughshares. Unfortunately there is none. They vastly outnumber Nato in ground troops and tanks in central Europe and the balance is still shifting in their favour. There is absolutely no sign that they regard détente as a reason for diminishing their military effort. Until they agree to controlled mutual reductions there is no reason for Nato to relax its effort either.

Wealth tax and art dealers
From the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association
Sir, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, MP, asked the Minister for the Arts in the House of Commons (December 13) what steps he proposed to take to prevent "the flight of the fine arts market to other countries" if the wealth tax were to be introduced. The Minister's reply was that "that market follows freedom. If extra taxes are imposed in the United Kingdom, we shall lose this market." As Mr Hugh Jenkins did not offer any way to reduce the tax, it is important to point out that that owing to governmental threats of further fiscal oppression on the arts many of our leading auctioneers and dealers are making plans to move the centre of their operations overseas. Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY, President, The British Antique Dealers' Association Ltd,
20 Rutland Gate, SW7.
December 15.

Clergy stipends
From the Reverend Michael K. Barling
Sir, Over the past few weeks the tone of the letters on clergy stipends has been one of gloom and despair. The suggestion is that we are all nobly bearing an unjust burden. I would be grateful of the opportunity to put something on the other side of the scale. I am a married Vicar with three children. My stipend is nearly £2,000 a year. To this must be added the vicarage which the Church Commissioners value at £1,000 a year. My total income of £3,000 a year is surely an adequate income. We have found it so. My wife does not go out to work. We run a car, have an annual holiday and we will have an excellent Christmas. We also give. I will not finish my days as a wealthy man, but then I never thought would. On the other hand I am not despairing and, in the absence of any rude letters from him, neither is my Bank Manager. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL K. BARLING,
The Vicarage,
St Andrew's Road,
Sidcup, Kent.

Medical salaries and NHS
From Dr M. S. Rose
Sir, This really is a ridiculous country. How on earth can any official body seriously contemplate a 20 per cent rise in salaries of £16,000-£30,000 for senior consultants? It is of no importance that much of it will go in tax. That is true for everyone and is strictly irrelevant. I recently participated in the correspondence on Consultant contracts and my feelings were and remain unaltered. In such circumstances it seems that a rise in consultant salaries may give us more pocket money while the ship goes down, in itself not a particularly coherent professional objective. However, since there really are government servants on £30,000 a year for a rise, perhaps we should give thought to the medical employees of the NHS who are powerless to intervene in the revolution of the standards of hospital medicine because of monstrous, ill-conceived impositions like the reorganization (disorganization?) of the NHS. I cannot work in the fashion to which we are subjected, the apparatus and personnel are unavailable, and if many hospitals in which we work were dumps at the turn of the century and have

Public lending right
From Lady Antonia Fraser and others
Sir, While otherwise endorsing your timely leading article (December 12), may we try to nail once and for all the misapprehension that "unfortunately such studies as have been made show that the administrative complexity and cost of directly relating the public lending right to public lending in the larger cities of this country is perhaps worse than anywhere in the western hemisphere. The State primary schools which my son has had the misfortune to attend are little better than baby-minding stations and are an insult to the aspirations of education. And the teachers, whatever their intentions, are as bad as the dreadful institutions in which they work. Education is the responsibility of teachers and not of the government, thus teachers must take the blame for failing to maintain control and for becoming political pawns. If this happens to medicine (if, I say, closing both eyes firmly) a lot of people of goodwill will change course for money, sun, or both, and the weaklings who are left will protest that there is nothing they can do about it. It is for the benefit of people far away from the bedside who have different priorities, who are earning £30,000 plus per annum, and cannot distinguish between the importance of good medicine and good concord. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL S. ROSE,
Senior Lecturer,
St George's Hospital,
Department of Haematology,
Blackshaw Road, SW17.

Wood

Grouping for strength in Europe

Mr Mason, the Secretary of Defence, has wholly the passion for designing his policies that declare his aims and commitments both as a constituency member (see the Joy Brewery tie) and as a Minister. The latest addition to his list of hobbies is the formation of a Department of Criticism, which concerns must now presumably be as outranking the brigade at least for rarity if not social desirability. Against the backdrop of a flowing fall of red, the three emblems of the three countries, worked in gold. Surely there could be no hour for its introduction to the Treasury bench this afternoon when in a defence Mr Mason will be in a crossfire of criticism from Labour backbenchers who will not for cutting expenditure; and by the Opposition in Mr Heath's amendment) for so savagely that he imperils the nation's security. Mr Mason may have second thoughts and his Bursley Brewery tie, or backbenchers behind him consider the Defence Department an act of calculated provocation and the Opposition would be a cynical frivolity. First, the Shadow's request for an urgent debate before the Christmas recesses will with their choice of days for a debate on the rising economic crisis. If the alternative thesis for Wednesday be sound, then how may they do too much against defence spending, as a propo-

sals will be critically scrutinized by the military committee of the Defence Planning Committee of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Admiral of the Fleet Hill-Norton, who has a formidable reputation for toughness. By the time his appreciation comes to hand all the diplomatic representations will be in, but the military appreciation will be decisive for some of the detail of the review. As the Commons goes into today's debate, a Conservative and a Labour hiccup of logic are worth noting. It is a plausible line of defence: the servant of foreign policy; and the defence review has been designed to regroup British ground and air strength to meet any threat to the land mass of western Europe. The central European front line becomes Britain's front line; and the Royal Navy will be concentrated in the eastern Atlantic to keep open the route of reinforcement to western Europe from the United States. All in all, I hope Mr Mason has the sense to carry the line to its logical limit by a Government that purports to have doubts about Britain's integral place in Europe, and should be opposed by the party whose foreign and economic policies through the years have made the logic inescapable. Of course, the Government's logic is not unflawed, as a Labour backbench motion illustrates. Signed by nearly 100 backbenchers, it protests against continuing British involvement east of Suez in Oman. Well, defence ministers are what foreign secretaries and chancellors of the exchequer allow them to be. Inconsistency over Oman is one of the points of detail that Mr Callaghan ought to be defending at meetings of the Parliamentary Labour Party, much as Diego Garcia is a Foreign Office concession to Washington in lieu of British withdrawal from Simonstown. All in all, I hope Mr Mason has the audacity to wear the prototype of the Defence Department tie today—at any rate until he has had time and leisure to design a tie to celebrate his appointment, with effect from next month, as chairman of the Eurogroup of Defence Ministers: a personal tribute on which he is right to set a small value as his critics hit him hard.

Cathedral collapses
From Mr P. Sillsby
Sir, The first leader of December 11 referring to the work of medieval architects and masons stated few engineering mistakes were made and cited the collapse of the nave at Beauvais as a rare example. Unfortunately it is far from true as a quick look at ecclesiastical building in this country alone will show. At Ely, part of the thirteenth-century foundations stand on rock at six feet, but the Norman foundations were on soft mud at four feet six. At Croylund the Butt tower rubbished and peat while five feet beneath there was a sound bed of gravel. At Winchester a part stands on bundles of faggots in water. The results of this negligence were calamitous. At Winchester the tower fell in 1107, at Gloucester another fell in 1170, Worcester 1175, Evesham 1213, at Dunstable two fell in 1221 and another two in 1222 again at Worcester, Lincoln's central tower collapsed in 1240 when the nave was blown down. In 1321 Ely lost its Norman central tower later replaced by the famous Octagon and St Albans in 1323 lost part of its Norman nave. Yours faithfully,
P. SILLSBY,
2, Wharton Street, W1.
December 12.

Break before university
From Miss F. H. Guillian
Sir, Correspondents who have written to you about the year's break between school and university have referred with regret to "VSO"—"curtailment of its school-leaver scheme"; I should like to explain the reasons for this and to stress that we are not "concentrating on sending graduates abroad" as Mr T. B. Langton suggested (December 10). Voluntary Service Overseas exists to help Third World development by providing opportunities for people with skills to make a practical and individual contribution on a volunteer basis. It does this by responding to specific requests from overseas governments with whom the initiative lies. To this end we aim to recruit any skill that will help a developing country in its agriculture, its technology, its medical services, its education system, its economic life—in fact in everything that contributes to its social development.

Foxes not pests?
From Mr R. F. Rowley
Sir, Sir Richard Goodwin, secretary of the British Field Sports Society, is hoist with his own petard in criticizing the recent national survey on Foxes and Farming (The Times, December 7) conducted by a company of high repute on our behalf. Sir Richard states there are 295,270 farms, and hunts kill 18,000 foxes per annum. In other words, about one fox per 17 farms per annum. Hardly an effective form of control. Sir Richard should have thought more carefully before rushing into print by accidentally letting the cat (or should I say the fox?) out of the bag, we find we have a strange ally confirming the result of our survey. For this we thank him! Yours faithfully,
R. F. ROWLEY, Chairman,
League against Cruel Sports,
1 Reform Row, N1.

From Mr Derek Parker
Sir, In your leading article of December 12 you doubt the justice of P.L.R. and compare the lending of books with the hire of motor cars, etc. stating that once a car has been bought by a hire firm, no further payment for its use is made to the manufacturer. The comparison is false and the argument an ancient red herring. The short answer is that a book is not a chattel, as a motor car is, but a piece of intellectual property protected by the law of copyright. In other words, when you buy a book, you cannot under the law convert it into a film or play, or reproduce substantial extracts, without permission and without making additional payments. In this way you are recompensing the author for the use of his creation. The lending of books by public libraries constitutes yet another use of intellectual property, no different in principle from the other uses already mentioned; and this is what public lending right is all about. Yours faithfully,
DEREK PARKER,
37 Camden Hill Towers, W11.
December 13.

From Mr Derek Parker
Sir, In your leading article of December 12 you doubt the justice of P.L.R. and compare the lending of books with the hire of motor cars, etc. stating that once a car has been bought by a hire firm, no further payment for its use is made to the manufacturer. The comparison is false and the argument an ancient red herring. The short answer is that a book is not a chattel, as a motor car is, but a piece of intellectual property protected by the law of copyright. In other words, when you buy a book, you cannot under the law convert it into a film or play, or reproduce substantial extracts, without permission and without making additional payments. In this way you are recompensing the author for the use of his creation. The lending of books by public libraries constitutes yet another use of intellectual property, no different in principle from the other uses already mentioned; and this is what public lending right is all about. Yours faithfully,
DEREK PARKER,
37 Camden Hill Towers, W11.
December 13.

Transplants:

Unsympathetic public attitudes and legal confusion mean that time is running out for thousands

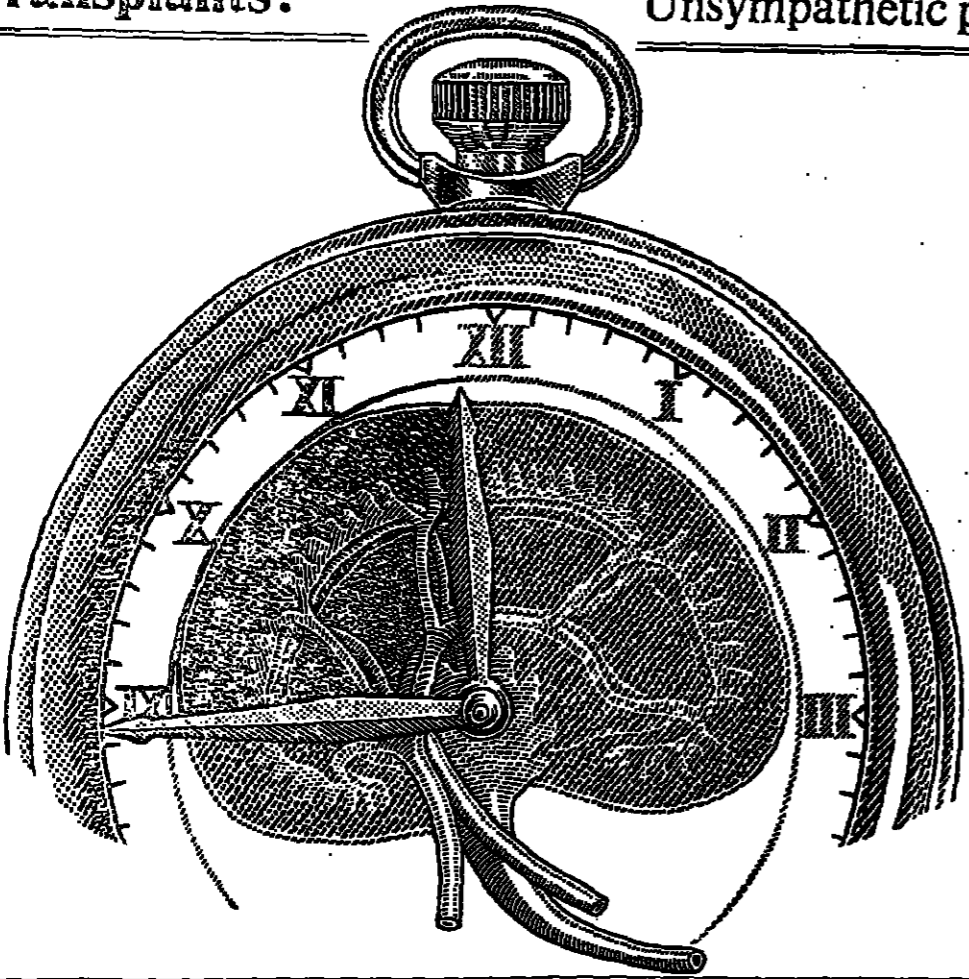


Illustration by Bill Sanderson

Queueing for a chance to live again

No surgeon would willingly use second-rate equipment or materials in his operations, yet British doctors are transplanting kidneys that would be rejected as substandard by their colleagues in Europe and the United States. They do so simply because so few kidneys are offered for transplantation in Britain.

A combination of unsympathetic public attitudes, the confused state of the law, and indifference by doctors has meant that in many hospitals little or no attempt is made to remove kidneys from patients dying after motor accidents or from brain damage. As a result transplant surgeons are just not getting the kidneys they need; and almost daily they face a decision between using a poor quality kidney (and risking the patient's life in so doing) or telling the patient that he will have to go on waiting (and so

lengthening the queue of dying patients needing treatment). Each year another 2,000 persons with kidney disease reach a stage in their illness when death would normally occur within a month or so. Many of them can now be kept alive by three sessions a week of dialysis on an artificial kidney machine, but they have to eat a restricted diet and drink very little fluid—and they never feel really well. In contrast, when a transplant operation has been a success the patient feels fit again, can eat and drink normally, and is no longer dependent on his artificial kidney. Not surprisingly, many patients who have had a year or so of life on an artificial kidney are prepared to take the risk of a transplant.

The risk is very real, despite the fact that (alone of the major organ transplantation procedures) kidney grafting has become a routine treatment in many technically advanced countries. At least 15,000 kidney transplant operations have been done in Europe, North America, and Australasia since the early 1950s, most of them in the past five years. About 7,000 of the patients treated are alive and

well with functioning kidneys; another 3,000 are alive but their transplanted kidneys are not functioning and they are back on dialysis; but the remaining 5,000 are dead.

Despite these risks many patients volunteer for a transplant after months or years of dialysis treatment—and it is not uncommon for a patient to ask for a second transplant if his first kidney functions for only a short period. The quality of life for the patient does seem to be much better with a transplant than on dialysis.

But there is another, more compelling reason for transplantation. With 2,000 fresh patients needing treatment for kidney failure each year the NHS would need to supply nearly that number of new artificial kidneys each year if all patients were to be treated by dialysis. It has neither the money nor the intention to do so. Current policy is that the emphasis should be switched from dialysis, either at home or in hospital, to transplantation.

Concentration on transplantation is in some ways a draconian solution but it makes social, economic, and medical sense. Long-term dialysis is

expensive, demanding large numbers of specialist staff, and the restrictions it imposes on the patient can be demoralising. In contrast, when patients are treated by transplantation the operation is relatively cheap and a straightforward procedure; and if it is a success the patient no longer needs his artificial kidney.

Clearly, then, if most patients with kidney failure are to be treated by transplantation there must be an adequate supply of kidneys of adequate quality. In Britain at present neither is the case. About 500 kidney transplants are done each year, but many more than 500 patients are waiting for a transplant at any one time. This disparity between the numbers of patients needing kidneys and the numbers available has led surgeons to use "doubtful" kidneys, and it is not surprising that many never function properly.

The quality of kidneys determines the chances of success. Thousands of experiments on animals have shown that to have any chance of functioning a kidney must be removed within an hour of death, and the shorter the delay the better. Once removed, the kidney can be cooled and stored in ice while arrangements are made for the operation, but the vital factor is the warm ischaemia time—the minutes that pass with the kidney still inside the body at body temperature but with no blood flowing through it.

In many countries leading surgeons are not prepared to use kidneys removed after death—some delay is inevitable and every minute inside the old body damages the organ. Instead they rely on the two sources of "living" organs. First, relatives may volunteer or be persuaded to volunteer to give up a kidney.

The results obtained are distinctly better than when kidneys removed after death are used. One year after operation the chance that a kidney taken from a brother or sister will be functioning normally is 85 per cent or more, but for a kidney taken from a dead body the figure is nearer 70 per cent. Only one British centre, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, makes regular use of kidneys taken from patients' relatives.

The second way in which "living" kidneys can be obtained is for them to be removed from the body while the heart is still beating. In several parts of the world laws

have been passed allowing death to be certified when brain function ceases. The Californian state legislature, for example, has agreed that "a person may be pronounced dead if, based on usual and customary standards of medical practice, it is determined that the person has suffered an irreversible cessation of brain function."

However, recent developments suggest that better results may soon be possible from the use of cadaver kidneys. After their removal from the body kidneys may be kept in good condition by passing a cooling fluid through their blood vessels. Research has now shown that chemical tests can be done on the kidney while it is being perfused in this way and that these tests give an accurate prediction of the chance that it will function properly after transplantation.

A recurrent complaint from patients and the public is that doctors never consult them about difficult problems of this kind. Kidney transplantation is one example where the medical profession would welcome help. No one wants to see patients, many of them young and otherwise fit, dying from kidney failure and its complications. For the foreseeable future kidney transplantation offers such patients their best chance of survival: but enough kidneys will become available only by public pressure leading to changes in attitudes. There are two possibilities.

First, much more use could be made of kidneys taken from relatives. Few surgeons would welcome such a trend. Medically speaking, the younger the volunteer donor the better—brothers and sisters are preferable to parents. Surgeons believe that it may be difficult to avoid some sort of moral blackmail developing within a family, especially if only one or perhaps two of the patient's relatives are suitable as donors.

Much preferable, then, would be a big increase in the numbers of cadaver kidneys made available from patients dying in hospital. That would allow surgeons to use only the first-class kidneys and to discard those that seemed doubtful when tested on the perfusion apparatus. Changes in public attitudes to transplantation will help, but another factor is the current confused state of the law.

Why doctors refuse to operate

Much of the law on organ transplants is contained in the Human Tissue Act, 1961. But that Act was passed when kidney transplant techniques were still in their infancy. The first successful operation in Britain using a kidney from a dead donor was not performed until 1963.

The Act was passed mainly with corneal grafting in mind, and followed closely a 1952 Act on that subject. The medical and ethical factors involved, however, are very different in the two cases. The result has been that, as far as kidney transplants are concerned, both the law and the medical ethics are in a state of confusion.

This has led directly to a gross inefficiency in the kidneys available for transplant, and to those that do become available too often being of not sufficiently high standard.

Section 1(1) of the Human Tissue Act provides for cases where a person has made known his wish to have part of his body made available for transplant or research. This wish has to be made either in writing (at any time during his life) or, if made orally, must be in the presence of at least two witnesses during the person's last illness. Where such a wish has been expressed the section goes on to allow "the person lawfully in possession of his body after his death" to remove the part of the body needed.

The Department of Health and Social Security has issued kidney donor cards on two occasions, the more recent being only last month to make it easier for the wish to be expressed in writing.

But all this may be in law, irrelevant because of difficulty over the interpretation of the words "lawfully in possession of his body". If in law the phrase refers to the authorities of the hospital in which the potential donor died, there is no problem and the kidney can be taken out immediately after death.

The alternative view is that lawful possession of the body is vested in the executors of the deceased. This would mean that after the death of the potential

donor the hospital authorities would first have to seek permission of those executors before being able to remove the kidney. This would give executors the right to override even the stated wishes of the deceased and would also mean that because of the time which might have to be taken in seeking permission the operation could not be performed at all.

This restrictive interpretation is held by the influential Medical Defence Union and by at least some past ministers and officials of the Department of Health and Social Security. Sir Keith Joseph when Secretary of State said in Parliament that the kidney donor cards, even in their new form including the signature of a next of kin, did not authorize a surgeon to proceed with taking a kidney out of the dead body without further inquiry. Many hospitals and surgeons because of the unsatisfactory state of this part of the law are now not performing urgently needed transplants.

In practice, however, the most desirable kidneys are those which can be taken from youngish people who die in hospital after an accident. The vast majority will not be carrying kidney donor cards. The procedure specified by the Human Tissue Act when the potential donor has expressed no known wish is therefore crucial. But here as well there is uncertainty in the law.

The Act provides that "the person lawfully in possession of the body" can authorise the removal of an organ if "having made such reasonable inquiry as may be practicable" he has no reason to believe that the deceased had expressed an objection to having his body used in that way, or that "the surviving spouse or any surviving relative" of the deceased objected.

The first problem is the same as that where the deceased has signed a kidney donor card: whether the hospital authorities are the people lawfully in possession of the body. But even if this is answered affirmatively the difficulty arises in the definition of "reasonable inquiry as may be practicable".

Where corneal grafting is concerned the difficulty is considerably less, because the cornea need not be removed from the dead body for some hours and adequate inquiries can be made. But a kidney, to be of sufficiently high quality for a transplant, has to be taken out of the body within a maxi-

mum of one hour after death. Many doctors in fact believe that even an hour's delay reduces the efficiency of the kidney and that to have maximum confidence removal should take place immediately on death (however that is defined).

It can be argued that in these circumstances "such reasonable inquiry as is practicable" can and should mean very little inquiry. In other words, unless the wife or parent is immediately available to be asked (and this in itself can raise psychological difficulties) nothing more can be required from the hospital authorities or surgeon.

That is not the end of it however. Who counts as a surviving relative under the Act? If one relative has not objected need others be asked as well? If a potential donor's wife agrees, can his mother object?

Questions like these show up another unsatisfactory aspect of the Act. It would not be difficult to specify a limited range of relatives, to place them into some order of priority, and to provide that only one relative need be contacted. A similar recommendation was made by the Bar Council in a memorandum on organ transplants in 1971, which has been completely ignored.

Bringing an end to confusion on these aspects of the law would greatly help hospitals by enabling them to carry out more transplants efficiently. But it might not be enough. Ultimately two further steps may have to be taken.

The first is an "opting out" scheme, under which everyone would be assumed to consent to their kidneys being taken out on death, unless they had specifically made known their objections in some way during their lifetime. The second reform, which has already taken place in some countries, is to provide a legal definition of death which would be based on irreversible brain damage, even though the heart may still be beating. This would allow kidneys to be removed at their peak of freshness.

Public opinion is not yet judged ready for either move. Eventually, however, these changes might be the only way of ensuring that good high quality kidneys are available for transplant. Put another way these changes will mean that thousands of people with kidney disease who are now doomed if die could be given a very real chance of living a full life.

Marcel Berlins

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent



Now that you know your Scotch, taste what came before.

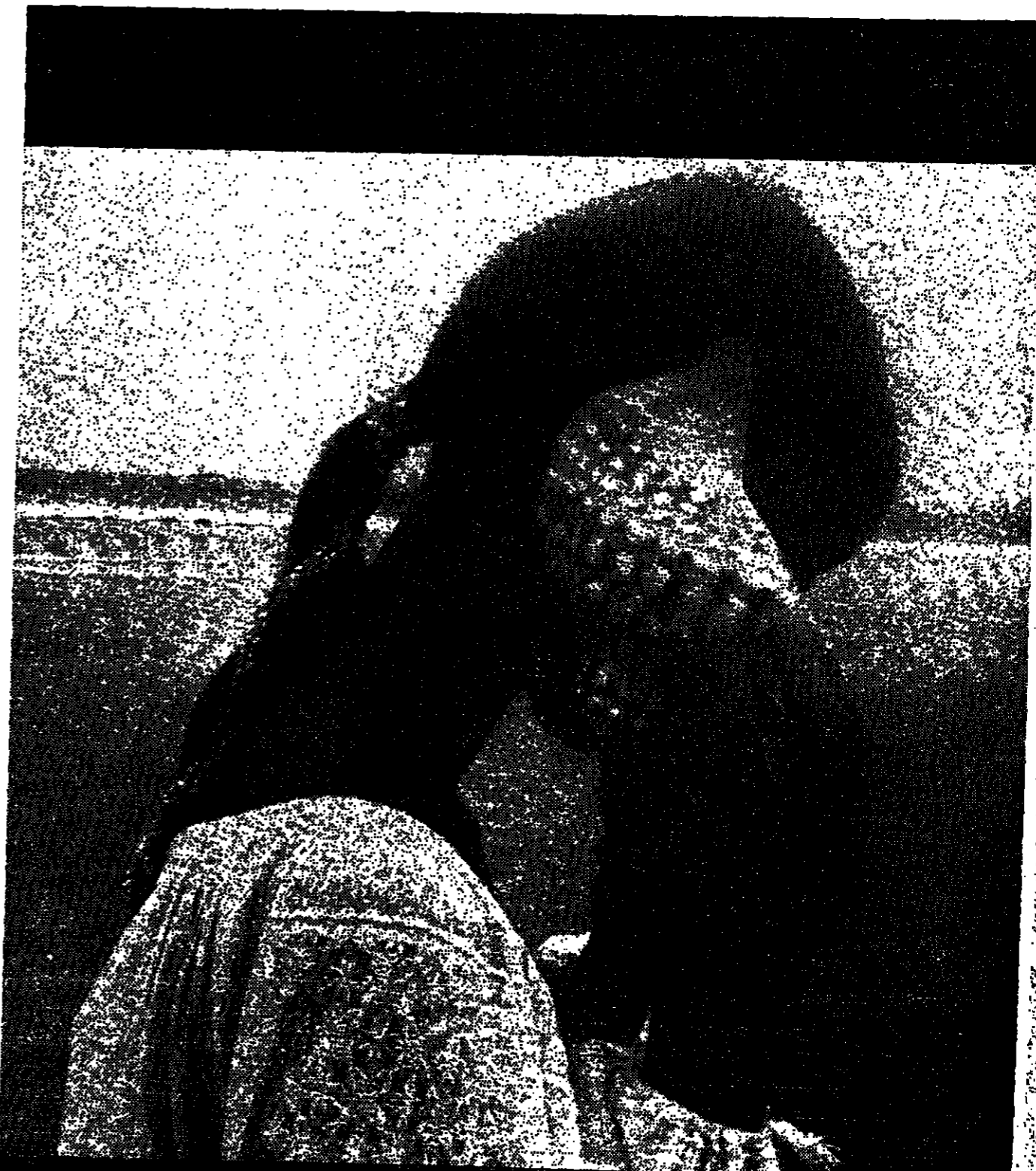
When you drink Scotch today, you're probably enjoying a blend of twenty to thirty different sorts of Scotch whiskies. However, for many centuries before the art of blending was developed, the original whisky of Scotland was pure malt, first recorded in the Scottish Exchequer Rolls of 1494. Glenfiddich Pure Malt has an

aroma and taste very different from the blend to which you are probably accustomed. But the smoothness and mellowness of Glenfiddich is difficult to describe—it can best be experienced.

We could tell you at length about our family distillery at Glenfiddich, the hand-beaten copper pot stills and the pure

Highland water. But for now, let us merely say that William Grant & Sons make Glenfiddich today as we have done for four generations in the traditional way. The result is a pure malt whisky matured for at least eight years—a delight to drink. Why not try a dram with a friend? It could be a great step backwards for you.

Glenfiddich Pure Malt Whisky



Un parfum aux secrets splendeurs...



"Farouche"
Le nouveau parfum

de NINA RICCI

سكننا من الأصل

SOCIAL NEWS

Elizabeth Howard-Smythe... Humphrey Berkeley much re...

Upcoming marriages

J. F. Ellis... M. W. Vestey... H. Nathanson...

Study finds religious awareness is not dead

By Clifford Longley Religious Affairs Correspondent

Religious awareness no longer... The fundamental question of the survey was: "Do you feel you have ever been aware of the power, whether you call it God or not, which is different from your everyday self?"

His results are in line with recent research in the United States... The fundamental question of the survey was: "Do you feel you have ever been aware of the power, whether you call it God or not, which is different from your everyday self?"

means exclusively emotional... The commonest single reason given by respondents at Nottingham for believing their experience to be religious was that it was authenticating.

Latest wills

Mrs Daisy Mary Acland, of Bognor Regis, left £47,286 net (duty paid, £3,521) in her will. After specific bequests totalling £5,000 she left the residue to the First Church of Christ Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts.

Parliamentary diary

House of Lords December 9: Consolidated Bill... December 10: Short notice... December 11: Short notice...

Appointments in the Forces

ROYAL NAVY... ROYAL AIR FORCE... ROYAL ARMY... ROYAL MARINES...

Parliamentary notices

House of Lords... House of Commons... House of Commons...

Dinners

Wales and Chester Circuit... The annual Chumchall dinner of the Maccaffians was held at the Yvonne hotel last night.

University news

New Master of Pembroke College... Sir Geoffrey Arthur, Deputy Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1973, has been elected Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, succeeding Sir George Pickering.

Today's engagements

The Queen attends premiere of film 'The Island of the World'... The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, takes part in a television programme on the television centre, Shepherds Bush, 8.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Constable Maxwell was christened Laura Katherine in the Chapel of Our Lady, Alresford House, by the Rev. Dennis Woods.

OBITUARY

SIR MORRIS FINER Chairman of Press Commission

interest in the school, becoming a governor in 1964 and vice-chairman in 1970. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1943 and soon acquired a large practice at the common law bar.

DR KURT HAHN Founder of Gordonstoun

Dr Kurt Hahn, CBE, a great innovator in education, and the schoolmaster of the Duke of Edinburgh at Salem and Gordonstoun, who died on Saturday, was born in Berlin on June 28, 1886, the son of a Jewish family with industrial, medical and musical connections.



Whitall

A. R. Grace... J. Macdonald... W. Wilkins... C. S. Gibbins...

25 years ago

From The Times of Thursday, December 15, 1949... Sir May 1. briefly support Mr Michael Foot's plea for the sugar growers of the West Indies?

Birthdays today

Sir Walter Adams, 68; Professor Sir Harold Bailey, 75; Mr F. R. Brown, 64; Lord Margdale, 68; Admiral Sir Graham Nicholson, 72; Vice-Admiral Sir John Norris, 74; Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Patch, 70; Mr V. S. Frichet, 74; Sir Hugh Ross, 72; Sir Roland Symonds, 70; Mr Justice Thompson, 67.

Science report

Obstetrics: Inducing labour... Last month The Lancet summed up the situation: "The chances of the occurrence of a major and life-threatening emergency are greater at delivery than at any other time of pregnancy."

£50,000 winner

The weekly £50,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, December 14, was won by Mrs L. E. 291837, the winner lives in Lancashire. The 25 £1,000 winners are:

WRNS officers

A reception for past and present WRNS Officers will be held in St James's Palace on Monday, March 18, 1975, at 6.30 pm. Applications for tickets, price £3.50, should be made to DWRNS, Room 308A, MOD, Spring Gardens, SW1A 2BE.

Order of St John

Brigadier Sir Ian Fraser, chairman of the Police Authority, Royal Ulster Constabulary, has been promoted to be a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St John, and Mr S. Stephens, Registrar of the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeal, to be a knight of the order.

Sugar growers determined on a big increase

The news that some European farmers, including those in England, wanted an extra 36 per cent for their sugarbeet next year instead of the 16 per cent planned by the Government was first made public by cane producers. They were justifying the far larger price rises they wanted on the grounds that the Community had agreed to supplying the 1,400,000 tons for which access has been guaranteed.

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

World prices were of course in double figures not so long ago, but the European bargaining power that they have enjoyed is practically negated by EEC's desperate eagerness to make sure that the price of cane sugar has already begun in the West Indies, and storage capacity is limited.

Science report

Obstetrics: Inducing labour

Not long ago hospital midwives used to prepare a special cot for the first baby born on Christmas Day. This year, it seems, some hospital obstetric units will be virtually shut for the day because they can be born by appointment, but women are beginning to ask how one of the most natural human processes has been transformed to fit with the current nine-to-five, Monday-to-Friday philosophy.

Science report

Obstetrics: Inducing labour

Last month The Lancet summed up the situation: "The chances of the occurrence of a major and life-threatening emergency are greater at delivery than at any other time of pregnancy." The medical profession is divided on this issue, for no one has yet proved that the advantages for the baby of daylight delivery outweigh the disadvantages of interfering with the natural process of childbirth.

Sugar growers determined on a big increase

By more than a third to compensate for the much higher price of refined cane sugar. That means that the price of refined cane sugar is cut and that of beet increased by a juxtaposition of funds by the Sugar Board. The result is that retailers and food processors pay about £190 a ton for white sugar irrespective of source.

Science report

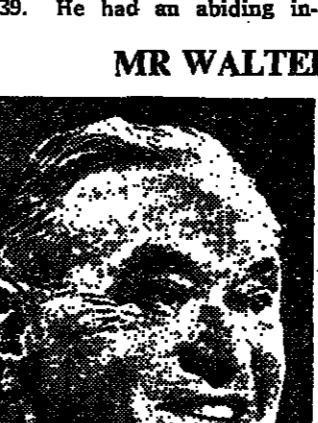
Obstetrics: Inducing labour

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Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization & week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 9. Dealings End Dec 23. § Comango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days. (Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

SAVILLS
PROPERTY INVESTMENT
20 Grosvenor Hill - Berkeley Sq - London W1X 0HQ
Telephone 01-499 8644 - Telex 263796

Stock	Price	Chgs	Gras	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chgs	Gras	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chgs	Gras	Div	Yield
BRITISH FUNDS																			
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																			
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN																			
LOCAL AUTHORITIES																			
FOREIGN STOCKS																			
DOLLAR STOCKS																			
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS																			
C-E																			
I-L																			
BREWERS AND DISTILLERS																			
FINANCIAL TRUSTS																			
INSURANCE																			
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																			
OIL																			
PROPERTY																			
RUBBER																			
MISCELLANEOUS																			
SHIPPING																			

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Price code change to cover inflation accounting under government consideration

Tim Congdon changes in the stage four code to allow companies incorporate inflation accounting procedures in their pricing policies are believed to be under consideration by the Government.

The Government may have become more sympathetic to the CBI's position because a fall in raw material prices, would actually accelerate the fall in product prices that would sooner or later have to follow.

Paragraph 68 is a safeguard clause which should permit companies to achieve a minimum return on capital of 10 per cent. If the rate falls beneath this, 10 per cent serves as the reference level.



Mr Harry Hyams: still at the helm of Oldham Estates.

Mr Hyams sells control of Oldham Estates

By Peter Wainwright Mr Harry Hyams, the property millionaire has sold control of Oldham Estates, which owns Centre Point office block in central London, to the Co-operative Insurance Society.

World finance ministers expected to back Healey plan for oil fund

By Melvyn Westlake It now seems almost certain that the proposal by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, for an International Monetary Fund borrowing facility to help developed nations with oil-price problems will be endorsed in principle at the first meeting of the Interim Committee of finance ministers in January.

Committee would give his scheme its blessing. Government officials in Saudi Arabia, which would probably be one of the main contributors to the facility, are believed to have told Mr Healey during his trip there last week that they accepted his scheme in principle.

Several European nations are believed to favour setting up the new facility, although the Americans are thought to be a little less enthusiastic. This is because they are less inclined to such direct arrangements with the oil producers, preferring that the funds so desperately needed by many of the oil-consuming nations should be raised through the market.

Nord Line decides on voluntary liquidation

From Geoffrey Dodd Copenhagen, Dec 15 Faced with debts of about £7.5m to the Vickers group and several banks, the Danish cruise liner Nord Line decided at a meeting of the partners held in Bredsten, Jutland, on Saturday, to go into voluntary liquidation.

Triumph strikers will hear peace formula after weekend of talks

R. W. Shakespeare agreement, unions and shop representatives from Leyland's strike-bound car plants met almost amicably throughout the day in attempts to resolve weeks of labour disputes.

is trying so hard to recreate confidence in its ability to survive the worldwide crisis on the motor industry. In the Midlands the management has had to defend one of its important agreements with the car unions at the worst possible time.

been forced to cut output and put workers on a four-day week. Production cuts and the consequent drop in demand for raw materials and components are rapidly working their way through the pipeline of about 2,000 companies supplying motor industry needs.

Saudis aim to give own tankers preference

By Peter Hill Saudi Arabia is planning to give preference to the export of the country's oil production in tankers owned by Saudi companies.

This move is in line with the general philosophy of many developing countries that a substantial amount of their foreign trade should be carried in their own ships.

OPEC's move offers hope of price stability

By Roger Vielvoys The decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to combine its single-price system for crude with a nine-month freeze on oil prices from January 1 gives the consuming countries the best prospect of oil cost stability since the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war last October.

By the Shah of Iran has achieved the same objective—margins are restricted to 22 cents a barrel. And, as OPEC sources point out, at these prices the state companies will find it easier to sell oil on the open market.

The Times Awards for the best advertisement of a company's results to appear in 1974.

Shellstar's ammonia plant plea Outline planning permission for a new ammonia plant for Shellstar at Ince Marshes has been made to Cheshire County Council.

Recently a line of about one million shares changed hands unofficially at about 30p a time. This price, the 50p paid by CIS for 4 per cent of the equity, and the 25p paid by the other two deals, are now figuring in discussions between CIS and the City Takeover Panel.

US production down 2.3 pc Washington, Dec 15—Industrial production declined 2.3 per cent in November, its biggest drop in more than four years, following a 0.6 per cent fall in October, the Federal Reserve Board said.

N Sea tax rate quandary By Our Energy Correspondent Oil company representatives have told the Government that the continuation of North Sea licences to provide the state with a 51 per cent stake in 12 commercial oilfields is largely an academic exercise until the rate of petroleum revenue tax has been fixed.

Edward Erdman & Company Property Consultants United Kingdom & Overseas

The closing date (31st December) for the 1974 Award Scheme is now very close and we would like to remind those companies wishing to take part in the competition that they must submit their entries by 6th January at the latest.

Farm cooperatives not starved of funds A call for more efficient marketing by more than 500 registered agricultural cooperatives in the United Kingdom is made in a report published today by the Government's Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Cooperation.

Japan's high growth policy is finished, Mr Miki says Tokyo, Dec 15—Mr Takeo Miki, Japan's new Prime Minister, yesterday announced an end to the high growth policy of the last 14 years that has transformed Japan into the world's third economic power.

Banker found dead A body found in a river at Northampton was identified yesterday as that of Mr John Pryor, of York Terrace, Regent's Park, north London, vice-chairman of the Western American Merchant Bank. He was reported missing on November 27, the day after entering a Northampton psychiatric hospital with acute depression.

On other pages Business appointments 20 Appointments vacant 18 Financial Editor 19 Financial news 20, 21 Management 18 Share prices 16 Bank Base Rates Table 21 Company Meeting Report: Fortin's 19 Interim Statement: The Distillers Company 20 Company Notice: Anglo American Investment Trust 21 Lending rate 1 1/2 pc The Bank of England's minimum lending rate was unchanged on Friday at 1 1/2 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill Tender:



Management

Edited by Rodney Cowton

Balancing educational values

Industry is again beginning to question various aspects of the management education scene. While there is nothing to suggest that there exists anything comparable to the loss of confidence in academic management education apparent three or four years ago, there is no doubt that serious concern exists about various tendencies now showing.

The focus of discussion is likely to be on two reports published this year by the British Institute of Management. The first document, which appeared some months ago, was drawn up by a working party of the joint BIM/CBI advisory panel on management education, and was based on a survey conducted by the Business Graduates Association. The second report** was published last week as a Management Information Sheet, and draws upon the earlier report.

Management education, in common with other areas of education, is entering a phase when severe financial limitations seem likely for a year or two to slow down, if not halt, the rapid development of institutions which has occurred in the last decade or so. There appears to be concern at the BIM that even if quantitatively management education will be making time, qualitatively progress should continue to be made.

While any action is likely to be concentrated on a handful of specific issues which might be susceptible of resolution in the medium term, these are underlain by one much broader, long-term criticism concerning the whole British educational system.

It is felt that the prevailing values in British education are antipathetic to business aspirations; that the values which are nurtured at school and university among the more able students result in many of them seeing a career in industry or commerce as inferior to one in say the Civil Service or in academic life.

This is a frequently heard complaint and one that can be met only by a gradual shift in national psychology, probably starting with the business schools and other centres of management education gradually influencing the philosophy of the universities generally, and they in turn diffusing that change of approach through the whole educational system.

But if that is a problem for the next 10 or 20 years, progress towards solutions to the more specific areas of concern related to management education could well be sought in the next year or two. These problems fall into three main categories: the relationship of industry to the management education institutions; the provision of management education and the employment of business graduates in industry and commerce.

Management education involves a marriage of two philosophies, that of the academic and that of the experienced businessman, and there is clearly some feeling in industry that the correct balance between these two has yet to be achieved.

This manifests itself in the view that there are still insufficient opportunities for the older businessman, who may lack adequate academic qualifications, to undertake the kind of high level course which is open to post-graduates. It also shows itself in the view held by many industrialists that the greatest benefits of higher management education are felt only when a student has had business experience before entering on a management course.

This insistence on the value of previous business experience also emerges in relation to the provision of management teachers. The survey by the BCA revealed that about half of the business graduates surveyed who were teaching management in 1972-73 had had no experience in industry or commerce. This is seen as a serious shortcoming, though it may be somewhat mitigated by the fact that many management teachers have practical contact with industry through consultancy work.

Among suggested solutions to this problem are the encouragement of companies to release more readily good managers to take up short-term teaching posts, though this may involve "re-entry" problems when the manager returns to his company; the encouragement of existing teachers to seek periods of secondment to industry and the raising of managerial standards of remuneration to a level which would attract successful industrialists.

Apart from these anxieties about what goes on in centres of management education, there is also concern about the development of business graduates and others who have completed their courses. The BCA report showed in late 1972 that more than 30 per cent of

undergraduates who went to business school from manufacturing industry failed to return on completing their courses. It also produced evidence that the production function is being starved of business graduates, for whereas 17 per cent were in production before going to business school, only 6 per cent returned to it. In contrast banking, teaching and consultancy appeared to be particularly attractive to business graduates.

The answer to this problem appears to lie in those areas of activity which feel starved of highly qualified men endeavouring to organize jobs which give the business graduate the opportunity to exercise the wide range of skills in which he has been trained.

One change in the pattern of management education which seems likely to emerge from the next year or two is the increasing development of part-time courses. The emphasis of extended management education courses is on full-time highly intensive work.

But it seems likely that companies concerned with financial stress will become more reluctant either to spare executives for full-time education or to finance them, and it may be that the introduction of less intensive part-time courses would get round this problem.

*Business Graduates in Industry. **Management Education: A Survey of Current Developments, Trends and Issues. Both from British Institute of Management, House, Parker St., London, WC2B 5PT.

ants before the scheme said they would use them again if the need arose.

The report bears out what every consultant knows, namely that a high proportion of their assignments arise from personal recommendation, from general reports or from clients who have used their services before. In the pilot scheme more than 60 per cent of companies chose their consultant on these grounds.

The general conclusion one can reach is that if consultants are employed on carefully thought-out assignments and are judiciously chosen, there is a good hope that benefits will significantly exceed costs as early as the first year of implementation, but that consultants' forecasts of the level of benefits may have to be taken with a pinch of salt.

*Consultancy and the Smaller Firm, by Colin D. Jones; available from the Industrial and Commercial Policy Division (Department of Industry), Room 601B, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Consultants demonstrate their worth

A fascinating insight into costs and benefits of employing management consultants is provided in a report* published last week by the Department of Industry.

It surveys the results of a pilot scheme mounted in 1968 by the Board of Trade to encourage the wider use of consultants by small companies. It covers 227 companies in Glasgow and Bristol which gave 258 assignments to management consultants. Under the scheme, which closed in February, 1969, the Board of Trade paid half of the consultants' fees. The report was written by Mr Colin D. Jones, economic advisor to the Department of Industry.

The general conclusions of the report are that where costs and benefits were quantifiable, companies were on average able to show a profit on the consultants' fees and the cost of implementation in the first year of implementation.

Where results could only be qualitatively assessed, it was felt that in just under 70 per cent of assignments, benefits were likely to outweigh costs, but the report suggests that consultants' fore-

casts of benefits were likely to be higher than those actually achieved.

For one-third of assignments where costs and/or benefits could be quantified, the report relates that 51 per cent of consultancy fees, thus, for every £1 of consultancy fees, costs of implementation worked out at 83p in the first year, while benefits achieved in the first year were £2.10.

Thus at the end of the first year, companies were typically showing a profit on their investment, even though benefits achieved were only about two-thirds of the amount forecast by the consultants.

Where costs and benefits were continued into the second year the profit improved handsomely. The cost in the second year is put at 34p and the benefits at £2.04, although again this figure for benefits was only about two-thirds of the £3.13 which had been forecast by the consultants.

Casual conversations would sometimes suggest that the most common fate for consultants' recommendations is to

moulder in a dusty filing cabinet, but that is not borne out by this report. In 200 or 78 per cent of the assignments, more than half the recommendations were adopted, while in only 11 of the assignments were none of the recommendations implemented.

In 185 of the 258 assignments, the company was satisfied with the consultants. In 61 cases they were only partially satisfied, and in 12 cases they were dissatisfied. Dissatisfaction with the work done accounted for 40 per cent of the reasons given for lack of complete satisfaction, while dissatisfaction with the personality or effectiveness of the consultant accounted for another 32 per cent and lack of adequate knowledge for the assignment on the part of the consultant accounted for a further 14 per cent of the reasons for dissatisfaction.

In a follow-up question, 22 companies which had not used consultants prior to the pilot scheme were found to have used them again after the scheme had ended, and another 81 which had not used consult-

ants before the scheme said they would use them again if the need arose.

The report bears out what every consultant knows, namely that a high proportion of their assignments arise from personal recommendation, from general reports or from clients who have used their services before. In the pilot scheme more than 60 per cent of companies chose their consultant on these grounds.

The general conclusion one can reach is that if consultants are employed on carefully thought-out assignments and are judiciously chosen, there is a good hope that benefits will significantly exceed costs as early as the first year of implementation, but that consultants' forecasts of the level of benefits may have to be taken with a pinch of salt.

*Consultancy and the Smaller Firm, by Colin D. Jones; available from the Industrial and Commercial Policy Division (Department of Industry), Room 601B, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

The friendly city with growth on its mind

Mr Fred Lloyd Roche, the 43-year-old general manager of the development corporation for Milton Keynes, is given as describing this quarter-million population project in the middle of England as "the friendly city".

In the next few months it may prove more friendly than even he expects to the industrial towns not far from its borders.

For while, in the threatened recession, they seem to see unemployment rising—the car and commercial vehicle production towns of Luton and Dunstable being especially at risk—Milton Keynes still displays many hallmarks of continued economic progress.

Industrial progress has been outstanding. Housing provision so far in recent months that it has exceeded the best planning of labour shortages.

Mr Roche said: "Some imbalance is bound to creep in from time to time in a project of this scale, but they have not been so vocal recently, so things may be easing somewhat."

Industry in the Regions

Nevertheless this area on the border of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire still has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country at well under 1 per cent.

The Blechley and Wolverton employment area manager, Miss Mary Hartwell, made it hard to put a precise figure to this because the population now 61,000, is growing so quickly.

Vacancies stood at 564 for all workers in November compared with a 1974 peak of 949 in June, but part of this is probably seasonal downturn. People tending to hang on to their jobs because of the recession has also been a factor because this has cut the job turnover rate.

In view of the country's economic prospects, Mr Roche and his colleagues would not have been surprised lately to see a slackening of interest by companies in setting up in the new city. Mr Roche said: "At the moment there is no evidence that the flow of inquiries and expansion of existing companies is in any way easing up. We are still getting more inquiries than we can cope with at our present state of development."

Mr Roche reckons that more people now commute into the Milton Keynes area to work than travel out, each day some 4,000 going in as against 3,000 travelling out.

A considerable proportion of the commuters out go to London, the fast electric rail service having turned the area into a popular dormitory for the capital.

The M1 also runs along the city's north-east boundary—the first-class communications network and the city's equidistant location between Birmingham and London has much to do with its special attraction to industry—and gives easy access particularly to Luton and Dunstable, homes of Vauxhall Motors and the Bedford vehicles factories. At the last census, from Blechley alone nearly 300 workers regularly commuted to Luton and Dunstable.

If the feared decline in new car registrations shows itself next year in lay-offs or redundancies in those towns—there are motor components factories as well as the Vauxhall complexes—the increasing Milton Keynes industrial demand could prove a useful cushion in difficult times.

Nor would it be far for anybody work-hungry in Northampton or Bedford to travel into Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes is now fast approaching take-off point as a recognizable new city. Since designation of the area in 1967, about 150 new companies have opened up there, from Tesco's central Home Wear warehouse to a Scion data-processing complex. The mix of new industries has been notably diverse.

Among the latest newcomers is Rank Xerox Engineering which is taking over a 50-acre site for a centre offering more than 1,000 engineering and scientific jobs which will make it the largest new employer so far entering the area. The development corporation has consistently followed a policy of setting up advance factories to speed introduction of new industries. Another 22 of these units will be started before the end of this month at Kiln Farm, one of a necklace of industrial areas around the city.

Work is starting soon on a £30m scheme to build the commercial, social and cultural centre of the new city, towards which the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund has put up £24m.

Despite the recent hesitations of the big retail names towards new investment, Milton Keynes is almost certainly one plum market they will not be able to afford to ignore.

As Mr Roche put it: "Milton Keynes is basically about housing people, and however bad the economic climate everybody wants that."

The announcement due from Mr Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, to boost house-building is the latest indication of that. For all concerned, Milton Keynes is as copper-bottomed an investment as you will find anywhere."

It could make Milton Keynes a bright spot indeed in a Britain facing more desolate economic times.

Derek Harris

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Large savings if outdated lamps replaced

From Mr S. E. Brain
Sir, Our experience of present day lighting in Britain certainly supports the main theme of your leader (December 10) on energy savings, namely that many more positive steps are needed to bring home to businessmen how costs can be reduced.

My federation's members estimate that in Britain's industrial and commercial premises there are some 1.5 million outdated lamps.

If changed to more modern equivalents, there would be an energy saving here alone of some half a million kilowatts a year.

To take a single more specific example of what is possible, a transfer from 750-watt tungsten filament lamps to 500-watt mercury tungsten means the same lighting for approximately one-third less electricity—or a saving of £1,500 on 5,000 hours of lamp operation.

The Government has already raised tax allowances to 100 per cent for expenditure on insulation of industrial buildings. Hopefully the new loans Mr Varley announced for "energy-saving investment in industry" will extend to lighting, so that dramatic savings of the type shown can be made more widely.

Similar examples can be given for public lighting, where again grant aid would yield quick energy-saving results. By changing the present

1,500-watt lamps lighting the Victoria Embankment to the modern sodium lamps now available, a reduction of 70 per cent can be made in electricity consumed for no loss in efficiency whatsoever.

It is indeed ironic that Parliament should be discussing energy conservation inside Westminster whilst outside are some of the most energy-wasting lights in the Kingdom continuing to blaze away.

Yours faithfully,
S. E. BRAIN,
President,
Lighting Industry Federation,
25 Bedford Square,
London WC1B 3HH,
December 11.

is often a more rewarding exercise. Department of the Environment documentation shows an annual fuel cost savings of over half the original cost of automatic control in the case of 30 government buildings.

To do this, however, accurate drawings of energy using installations must be available. If the do not exist then surveys must be made to produce them. I examine installations, the heating system should not be considered in isolation from the electrical installation. Electric expended on lighting also produces heat.

The above matters can often be examined in-house, but since there is still something of the bridge and engine room mentality in wide areas of British industry the management might be told what it wants heard. Independent consultant engineers enjoy telling managers what they do not want to hear. A telephone call to the Association of Consulting Engineers (01-222 6557) will lead to a study which, presented in a form of a loan application to the Department of Energy, will be well received.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. HARVEY,
113 Sydenham Road,
Croydon,
CR9 2LQ, Greater London,
December 10.

From Mr John Harvey
Sir, Responsible managements will acknowledge the need for energy saving both in the national and in their own interest. Some may welcome the following suggestions.

An examination should be made of the capital cost and following fuel cost savings if insulation is applied, particularly in the case of industrial buildings, to glass and roof areas. The economics are frequently disappointing.

The capital cost and following fuel cost savings of applying automatic control at various points in existing installations should then be examined. This

Inflation just a symptom
From Mr David Russell
Sir, Inflation, we are repeatedly told, is the evil which we must tame. But to me, a man constantly buffeted by reports of gloom and doom, seems that inflation is but a symptom of the real disease from which we suffer, name greed.

I would suggest that if I will never be restrained a severe Government whatever political colour, has the courage to remove, subject to the qualifications mentioned below, facility which enables such a man to be granted credit, especially in the form of hire purchase sale and credit cards which enable people to obtain more than at any one moment they can afford.

Admittedly these are hard words but it is not sugar that they should extend to short-term overdrafts on current accounts nor to mortgages house purchase, nor to the chase on credit of basic essentials for the home.

Detailed regulations will obviously have to be drawn but this latter class should include items such as machines, dish washers, freezers, stereo systems or vision sets.

There is no reason why I should not save for what I want and wait until I have the money to buy it. One can mind the Oshert Lancaster room which appeared at the of the Bank Rate crisis in Maudie Littlehampton depicted as saying: "trouble with everyone these is that even people who means are living beyond it. Yours faithfully,
DAVID RUSSELL,
11 Gray's Inn Square,
London WC1A 9AA,
December 10.

ECGD delays and the cost

From Mr R. A. Turton
Sir, As a small exporting company we would pay equal tribute to the overall value of ECGD "cover" mentioned in Mr Whitehead's letter (December 10). Equally, we too, have lost orders because of similar delays.

Our principal market is Austria, and for geographical and linguistic considerations our main competition comes from West Germany. In order to meet this we need prompt answers, which, in turn, require a considerable improvement in the "mechanics" of ECGD.

Particular examples are:

a. In the case of an application for a specific bank guarantee under ECGD we applied on April 19. Our bankers were prepared to finance this transaction immediately (at the preferential rate of 7 per cent per annum), but it was not until November that the approval came through, i.e. a delay of seven months.

b. At present we have outstanding applications for specific bank guarantees dated respectively September 24, October 7 and December 4. There has been no reaction from ECGD except in the latter case.

c. In this case (as in those mentioned by Mr Whitehead) the buyer was unknown to ECGD, whose underwriters asked for "a third party guarantee, preferably from an Austrian bank."

This would indicate that the underwriters are unfamiliar with the Austrian market, as if

a buyer is able to provide a third party guarantee (particularly that of an Austrian bank) he has no need of the special terms available through ECGD. In other words, the requirement by ECGD of a third party guarantee in this particular market is the equivalent of an outright rejection of an application.

Whilst, again, we appreciate the services offered by ECGD, we feel there is a lack of co-ordination. First of all, various branches take different attitudes to the same problem.

Secondly, liaison between branches and head office—particularly in the case of applications for specific bank guarantees.

Thirdly, it is impossible for an individual exporter to make direct contact with so-called underwriters who seem responsible for the delays, and whose decision could well be influenced by a direct explanation regarding the terms of the proposed transaction and the status of the buyers, of whose circumstances the exporter has direct knowledge.

In any event, we concur with Mr Whitehead, in his statement that, until the whole ECGD procedure can be improved, the overall loss of export orders will continue to be very substantial.

R. A. TURTON, Chairman,
Bishopsgate Steels (Machinery)
53 Grosvenor Street,
London, W.1.

Harder going for self-employed
From Mr C. L. J. Leaney
Sir, I cannot allow C. L. Bethune's misleading statements of December 5 to go unchallenged. He has attempted to work the objections of the self-employed to the proposed new rates of taxation implicit in the amendment to the Social Security Act, 1973, now before Parliament as "Self-employed White by Ignorance out of Frailty Individualism", although he is less dignified than a geological device and more appropriate to thoroughbred stock.

Nevertheless he is wrong. The runner is from a different stable: Self Reliant Objection by Frustration of Taxation without Representation is in fact the correct slogan.

I accept his figures regarding the maximum stake (maximum contributions for the year starting April 6, 1975, will be £502.32 in respect of an employed person and £285.32 for the self-employed), but Mr Bethune ignores the sponsor element in the first case, i.e. the employer.

In the case quoted the employee pays £198.00; his employer pays the balance and also claims rebate of tax thereon. The self-employed therefore carries a heavy penalty and, to work Mr Bethune's analogy to death, the going is harder for him than for the employed.

If the self-employed stumbles and is withdrawn from the race he gets no unemployment benefit. Neither will his retirement pension reflect his average level of earnings.

As Mr Bethune well knows, it is not money pay that counts, and at every step the employee is better off. After having asked £241 at every weekly hurdle throughout the year, the loser's penalty is an additional £160 (requiring £238 of earned income so that the Inland Revenue Levy Board can have a cut) if he is to compete next time round in the State Handicap for Independent Owners.

Yours faithfully,
M. Greenwood (Miss)
for C. L. J. LEANEY,
Regional Officer,
The National Chamber of Trade, Enterprise House,
Directors' Houses,
Oxfordshire.

Discharging waste products
From Mr Roy Jenkins
Sir, Managers of many modern industrial plants prefer to forget that their operation might be in jeopardy if they could not discharge some pretty nasty waste down the drain.

Many may face that situation unless they take action now.

People who gained an "ancient right" to discharge before 1961 have until January 30, 1975, to notify their regional water authority that they have this right under the Public Health Act, 1937.

The section of the new Control of Pollution Act is in force at the moment and has not been shelved. If no notice is given by January,

given by January, the old right will cease automatically when the Act is put into force next year and a plant operator may find it impossible to discharge until very expensive treatment plant has been installed.

No public body is charged with the duty of warning factory managers of this situation, and the HMSO dispute has absorbed four of the six months originally allowed by Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS, Managing Director,
Quantum Science Limited,
27 St George's Road,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Only one way
From Mr Colin Godley
Sir, In past times I have in France and Germany the currencies of these countries were at risk. For our country there is only one way to take at a juncture—person's standards must be lowered and each per income must be reduced (in the government).

If we all take a 10 per cent in income every six months we should be in a happier time within a relatively time, and able to seriously an improvement living standards.

To those who say this cannot be done I would say that every man and woman on retirement does this. person going on to does not go bankrupt & adjusts to a new standard.

Here we are all trying to readjust upwards too constantly increasing targets continuously by printed and expense accounts.

Which union will give to the country by annual 10 per cent cut in it. Either we do this ourselves outside conditions force it.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN GODLEY,
5 Colonnade House,
South Row,
Blackheath,
London, SE3,
December 10.

Comparison of nuclear reactor system
From Mr Arthur C. Tendler
Sir, On November 26, your paper published an article by Geoffrey Greenhalgh on the cost advantages of nuclear power. The figures on how the reactor systems compare were somewhat misleading because they did not reflect the most recent information available. This is particularly true in regards to Babcock & Wilcox.

While your figures indicate that B & W had only one system built, actually the company has three of its units commercially operating, plus a demonstration unit completed in the early 1960s that was the world's first privately financed commercial nuclear power plant.

Recent figures from the Atomic Energy Commission on the performance of the B & W system for Duke Power's Oconee 1 unit, which has completed one year of operation, show a lead factor average of 62.2 per cent and an availability of 74.6 per cent.

If you were to look at just the reactor availability as defined by the Edison Electric Institute, it would show the B & W unit at 92 per cent availability. (Downside factors affecting reactor criticality are often associated with the nuclear steam system and the AEC figures do not reflect this.)

A second B & W system which began operation in September, 1974, has been operating at 100 per cent availability with a 98.8 per cent load factor. A third B & W unit—Duke 2—has recently been completed commercially. Two more will be at that level shortly, a sixth is in power testing and two more units are scheduled to start up in 1975.

In addition to the performance records, B & W through steam generators shown no signs of the thinning that has shown several conventional steam generators around world.

According to the industry publication, *Nuclear News*, recent tests by Duke have a "clean bill of health" for B & W generators. Details are included in this Babcock & Wilcox unique and the water chemist's ability.

We feel these are significant facts which should be brought to the attention of your readers.

Sincerely,
ARTHUR C. TENDLER,
Vice-President, International Babcock & Wilcox,
161, East 42nd Street,
New York NY 10017,
December 11.

The National Bank of Commerce of Seattle is now Rainier National Bank.

Nearly 200 years ago Captain George Vancouver named a majestic Pacific Northwest mountain in honor of Admiral Peter Rainier of the royal navy.

Today a major Pacific Northwest bank has assumed that same name: The National Bank of Commerce of Seattle is now called Rainier National Bank.

Why a name change? In simplest terms, we were part of a financial family with a lot of different names. We thought if we gave them all a common name, it would make life a little easier for everyone. We chose Rainier.

Same people. Same offices. Same great services. Just a new name that conveys the strength and stability of a growing international network.

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SEATTLE • TOKYO • HONG KONG • SINGAPORE • LONDON • NEW YORK • LOS ANGELES

London Office: 46 Moorgate, EC2 6BH • Donald W. Vollmer, Senior Vice President

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

مركز من الأصل

Hugh Stephenson

Motor component sector after Leyland aid

Nothing short of disaster is at the ratings of most shares in the motor components sector now discouraging: many of them are selling at less than 10 times earnings, and several offer yields of over 20 per cent. Yet recent results from the sector—Associated Engineering, Jones Woodhead—have merely been better than expected, they have been positively good. So has the gloom doom been overdone, and do investors take advantage?



Mr. Ladislas O. Rice, joint chairman and managing director of Burton Group, keeping spending under control.

The recent survey of the industry put out by Capel went to some pains to emphasize, discretion is still a part of valour. There are companies in this sector with a relatively small content of original equipment sales, extensive and fast-growing as turnover, and with recovery prospects given the industrial decline to which the British industry has in recent years been painfully prone: this is the fact that British suppliers have this experienced very little of downturn in car component of which other manufacturers are complaining. But a balance sheet, of the type which Lucas, or BBA by claim, is worth any recovery prospects it has to be accepted the situation has been ordered by the Government's decision to support Leyland to a degree has not far been recognized in the component manufacturers' ratings. For although the market for original equipment is generally admitted to be now, and all the manufacturers agree that it will be next year—most are for a decline of 5 to 10 per cent in new registrations in the United Kingdom—they least, after Mr Benn's opinion of the importance of men in the motor business of its ancillary industries, think that the market will

so United Kingdom licensed dealers in shares, is more than just an extension of The Stock Exchange. In some ways it looks more like a hybrid of the secondary market system in this country and the more institutionalized forms of equity ownership and corporate control in Europe. So it is hardly surprising, perhaps, that the sort of smaller listed companies I referred to last week that have become disenchanted with the Stock Exchange, to the extent of considering going "unpublic" again, about the showing interest in the OTC market. Some of them apparently are looking around for an institutional partner to buy back in the public market.

Shares generally go into "firm hands" when a company goes to the OTC market. They are usually bought either by long-term private investors, or by financial institutions such as insurance companies or pension funds that back the existing management as a matter of policy. A concrete example of this was when a quoted industrial conglomerate made a bid for Henry Sykes, an OTC company. Existing institutional shareholders were persuaded to make a higher bid in support of the existing management and to ward off possible asset stripping. The counterbid succeeded and obvious example, since they are strong in metal parts, which should be a mini-boom for the 1 to 2 years new car purchase, like Lucas and AE, making a virtue of switching the capital into the consequences of petrol costs in the motor industry and to suffer badly from the tyre manufacturers' obvious example, since they are strong in metal parts, which should be a mini-boom for the 1 to 2 years new car purchase, like Lucas and AE, making a virtue of switching the capital into the consequences of petrol costs in the motor industry

OTC companies are encouraged to adopt a conservative line on dividend distributions and correspondingly generous one on profit ploughback. This is reflected in yields ranging between 2 per cent for Twinkl and 4 per cent for Rhodes, based on OTC pre-tax profits £3.35m (£8.28m) Earnings per share 7.42p (11.84p) Dividend gross 6.59p (6.3p)

no book is made, the licensed dealer acting as agent, not as principal. On the other hand, the OTC investor can come out with a substantial capital gain if he is prepared to take a minimum three-year view. Twinkl, for example, is presently standing at around 40p or twice the OTC issue price three years ago. Attempts to insulate the OTC market from Stock Exchange gyrations have not been 100 per cent successful as Twinkl has come off from around 60p since the top of the bull market but prices and p/e ratios do seem generally less volatile on the OTC market.

An OTC listing usually costs about one tenth of the £100,000 or so needed for a full offer for sale and yet the initial mark up in the value of a company on the OTC market has risen from 10 to 200 per cent. This is a mixed blessing from the estate duty angle but that has to be weighed against bringing in new capital to the business on advantageous terms. Rights issues are possible as are paper acquisitions, as Twinkl demonstrated, and dilution of control to homeopathic proportions is avoided. The future may well see an extension of an OTC market here, both by corporate demand and institutional initiative.

Burton Group Weighing up the future

There was a time when trading was not so hot that one could at least point to a retailing group's property assets and the shares could continue to demand a good rating. Today one can perhaps say the same thing but in a rather different sense. Burton Group may well only be capitalized at just over £11m against a net worth—largely in properties—of some 10 times that figure, but without the backing of these properties the market value would undoubtedly be appreciably lower. For without that kind of backing, there would have been no property profits last year, the group would have finished in the red, and, to be blunt, there would in many people's minds have been a considerable question mark over the future. Instead, Burton has been able to use its assets strength to generate the finance needed to reorganize its periphery—to rationalize the Peter Robinson operations and to complete the spin-off, reorientation of its French and Italian divisions. Both appear to have been achieved successfully and to be bearing fruit. But that is not the only reason why the Burton management is leaving a sigh of relief at the moment. The sales trends in the traditional motor and electronics operations have been far more encouraging in recent months, both in absolute terms and in terms of market share.

Not, of course, that the market is going to believe just like that that Burton has turned the corner. And Burton, by its own admission, is all too aware of the red-hot competition from the Marks & Spencers and C & A of this world, who do, of course, compete not only on price, but also through their greater ability to draw the customer into the store. For the market, then, the view must be that there is still a testing time ahead—how safe in fact is a yield of 22 1/2 per cent with the "A" at 31p—and that there could well be few purchasers interested at around the present level. The successful predator, however, would need either the blessing of the family or the encouragement of the "A" shares. The latter still looks some way off, and the former is likely to depend on the Burton family losing faith in both the management and capitalism.

Final 1973-74 (1972-73) Capitalization £11.4m Sales £127m (£114m) Pre-tax profits £3.35m (£8.28m) Earnings per share 7.42p (11.84p) Dividend gross 6.59p (6.3p)

Most important, this group

For students of Whitehall and of the Prime Minister the placing of Sir Don Ryder, as putative head of the National Enterprise Board, in the Cabinet office (see comment in Mr Benn's Department of Industry) was intended to create a counterweight within the system. Rather as Mr Harold Lever has a special place in financial matters closer to the centre of political decision than the Treasury, so Sir Don would have the advantages of an inside track in matters of industrial policy. Though neither a politician nor a civil servant, he will soon discover the need for political and mandarin skills of the highest order, if he is to use his position to effect. For Mr Benn has all the resources of a major department at his command. And civil servants will be the department who disagree with the Benn policies will resist out of institutional loyalty attempts by an interloper from Downing Street to shape events.

But, in two areas, Mr Benn is fast becoming a personal stamp on how things happen. The first is that the dominant purpose of intervention is increasingly to preserve existing jobs for their own sakes. Mr Benn seems to be personally committed to a crusade to remove the scourge of redundancies from the face of the land.

This means that the thrust of the Industry Act is somewhat diverted from a primary concern with industrial development or restructuring, and the creation of modern capacity, into altogether less radical channels. As the recession gathers pace this aspect of the work is likely to grow. The Treasury will presumably wish to limit the total to be spent in this particular form of outdoor relief. At present there seems to be some rule of thumb for the amount of money that may be spent to save a job, though this informal ceiling will not yet be breached in the case of Court Line.

Secondly, Mr Benn seems to have decided to proceed as if the Companies Act had already been amended to give workers the same (or even greater) rights in the companies for which they work as shareholders. Questions one, when an industrial situation now comes to the Department of Industry, is whether the workers have been consulted and what they want.

Mr Benn has had certain difficulties, arising from the fact that the answer was different, depending on which group of workers you asked. One also suspects that Mr Benn considers this sort of direct democracy more appropriate to our condition than playing with two-tier boards or worker directors. But, while there is wide agreement that the Companies Act needs changing to give employees a position in law analogous to that of shareholders, the fact is that the law has not yet been changed. Officials, receivers and others currently being dragged along in Mr Benn's wake may well unwearyingly feel that they lack the full coverage of the law as it stands.

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Divided opinions on the prospects for America

The economic news in the United States is getting worse daily—unless you belong to the school of thought arguing that a sharp recession is the only way to combat inflation. There is no question but that the United States is experiencing the sharpest economic recession since the Second World War.

Real GNP has fallen in each of the last three quarters of 1974 and the fourth quarter is expected to show a fall of between 6 and 8 per cent (annual rate). Thus, output will have fallen in excess of 4 per cent during this year and there is more to come.

The unemployment rate has already reached 6.5 per cent and even the most optimistic of forecasters expect the level of unemployment to rise to 7 per cent early next year. Several economists feel that the unemployment rate will rise to 8 per cent (or just under seven million persons out of work). And while inflation is still an issue in Washington, unemployment both actual and prospective is now the real worry, even if not always admitted.

Point of conflict

The basic point of conflict both within the Administration and among private economists is how much longer and how much deeper the recession will go before it is reversed.

Of the five previous postwar recessions, the average duration was 11 months and the longest 13 months. But activity in the early months of 1974 was badly affected by the oil embargo, and it is only in recent months that a classic business downturn has developed. Given the excessive stimulus to spending from 1971 by the Nixon-Budget, it is surprising that the Federal Reserve's monetary policy in 1972, sooner or later there would have been a correction, but the 1974 correction is being amplified by the problems of oil prices—as witness the fall in the price of automobiles.

Housing is a disaster area arising from the combination of high interest rates and unavailability of mortgage funds, with widespread bankruptcies in the building and property sectors. Consumer spending is also being hit outside the automobile area, which is hardly surprising seeing that after-tax incomes have been rising much less rapidly than consumer prices, and businesses are currently busy cutting their inventories.

The professional economic forecasters can be divided into the "optimists" and the "pessimists", even though both groups foresee further falls in output arising from inventory cuts in the first few months of 1975. The optimists take the view that the inventory adjustment will be over by next spring and that real capital spending will not fall to anything but a relatively marginal degree in 1975.

The pessimists are concerned about the strength of United States export earnings. The optimists are concerned about the inventory adjustment will be over by next spring and that real capital spending will not fall to anything but a relatively marginal degree in 1975.

Debt financing

And, just as in the United Kingdom, a great many companies are relying heavily on the issue of new debt to increase their borrowings or are not in any position to raise new borrowings and yet cannot raise equity funds. Finally, the pessimists are concerned about the strength of United States export earnings.

Odell file

Professor Peter Odell, the man who regularly launches bolts of optimism with the object of scuttling the arguments of the political and industrial pundits who are painting our future so black is not the enfant terrible his opponents make him out to be.

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of unquoted shares as the currency in Twinkl for the Shannon k seems to have stirred interest in the concept of the counter equity market is if the volume of enquiries since to investment bankers, Nightingale, is anything like the 160 or

Business Diary in Europe: This happy breed • Musical plates

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Dutch report the re- two are compared, outcome is, to say the remarkable.

easier, their workmates friendlier, felt more secure and found they had more choice to do the kind of work they liked

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Cawoods at peak but construction outlook is poor

Record interim results seem to augur well for Cawoods Holdings in spite of gloom over the prospects for the building, civil engineering and road works sector.

The Distillers Company Limited

The Distillers Company Limited presents the following unaudited report of Group profit for the half-year ended 30th September, 1974:

Table with 2 columns: HALF YEAR ENDED, HALF YEAR ENDED. Rows include Turnover, Consolidated Profit, Profit before taxation, etc.

Interim Dividend The Board has today declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st March, 1975, at the rate of 2.0125 pence per share.

Review of Trading The period under review was a buoyant one for sales of Scotch whisky and gin and shipments to the United States were particularly large in advance of a threatened dock strike in that country.

Since September our ability to meet orders received has been somewhat restricted by industrial action both within our own plants and elsewhere.

Economic Conditions The Board would normally have sought to raise substantial long term funds about this time in order to finance investment in buildings and plant and in additional stocks of Scotch whisky.

Brownlee is hit by weak demand and margins

Although turnover of Brownlee, the Glasgow-based timber merchant, has increased from £5.3m to £6.3m, interim pre-tax profits have dropped from £76,000 to £57,000.

GCI—Scots Tea offer lapses

Although the offer by Grand Central Investment Holdings for Scottish Ceylon Tea has been accepted by holders of 70 per cent of the shares, 90 per cent acceptance was necessary for the bid to succeed.

Business Appointments

New deputy chairman named at Seagrams

Mr Roger Lamberth has become deputy chairman and managing director of Seagram Distillers.

Mr J. S. Hay has joined the board of Scottish Agricultural Industries.

Mr William H. Franklin, chairman and chief executive officer of Caterpillar Tractor, will retire on February 1, 1975.

Mr R. W. Kirby has joined the board of Raychem Baker.

Mr J. E. Black has become a regional director of Forward Leasing.

Mr R. D. Dale has been elected president of Overseas Mining Association.

Mr J. N. W. Hearder is to become chairman of the health and food manufacturing division of Booker McConnell.

Mr P. F. Robinson joins the board of Hunt and Winterbottom.

Mr D. A. Wright has been appointed director of the Tia Research Institute.

Mr C. Galliford has been appointed chairman of British Building & Engineering Appliances.

Mr J. K. Wilson has joined the board of Executive Dynamics.

Profits fall slow at Bristol Evening Post

The second half of last year showed a fall at the Bristol Evening Post in taxable profits and although this trend is followed in the first half of 1974-75, the fall is not as steep.

Mr Suggett under fire on Cordova affairs

In order to answer shareholders' expressed concern over aspects of the affairs of Cordova Land, Mr Kenneth Suggett, chairman, is to be asked to answer other questions at the next annual meeting.

In view of present uncertainties facing industry, no forecast is made. Since the year end, however, the board reports that there has been no further fall in demand, but margins have continued under pressure.

Reflecting the continuance of preceding buoyant conditions in shipping, London & Overseas Freighters reports interim results to September 30 showing an "attributable" profit on the way to being doubled from £2.93m to £5.05m.

Associated Tooling

A jump in interim turnover from £610,000 to £1m is partly attributable to the purchase of Tring Engineering by Associated Tooling Industries.

Mr J. S. Harrison has become chairman of Midhurst White Holdings.

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Mr B. W. Morgan joins the board of Beck & Polittzer.

Inflation the key factor at Pontin's

Pontin's, the holiday group, has raised its 1975 prices by about 17 per cent, but "it remains to be seen" whether this will be enough to beat inflation.

Unquestionably the company would have the customers, but whether it could maintain the profit growth it had become used to over the past 10 years would depend on inflation.

Although Cope Allman International had planned to spend between £3m and £10m on capital equipment in the past year, this proved impossible.

Mr L. J. Manson, chairman of Cope Allman International, is weighing the implications of the high inflation rate.

Engineering group Hunstet (Holdings) is having serious difficulty in recruiting certain categories of skilled labour and some components are in short supply.

Hunstet labour worry

Engineering group Hunstet (Holdings) is having serious difficulty in recruiting certain categories of skilled labour and some components are in short supply.

Ladbroke's holiday boom

The home holiday industry will boom in 1975 and it will do so at the expense of overseas holidays.

Explaining the reasons for his optimism, Mr Updell said: "In the late sixties and early seventies, the British holiday industry undoubtedly suffered in the wake of cut-price package holidays."

Japan out of Ok Tedi

Six Japanese copper smelters have decided to withdraw from negotiations on their taking part in further development of Kennebec copper prospect at Ok Tedi in Papua, New Guinea.

No surprises from Grootvlei, Marievalle

Grootvlei and Marievalle, both in the Union Corporation group, finish the December dividend season with few surprises.

Commodities

Sugar: 'Astonishing situation in Paris'

An astonishing situation has arisen in the Paris sugar market which strikes at the very heart of the commodity trading in that city.

As a result of the recent falls in prices in the Paris market, a trader holding a major position was understood to be unable to meet his margin obligations.

As values had been falling rapidly this would effectively mean that settlement prices would be fixed at levels well in excess of those ruling on the day on which the failure occurred.

Although, Czarnikow says, this must be contrary to all ideas of equity, this view has been upheld by the president of the Paris commercial tribunal.

Traders use terminal exchanges in order to eliminate the risks involved in trading for distant delivery.

Japan's demand for primary aluminium is likely to drop over 350,000 tonnes this year to 1.3m tonnes.



Mr L. J. Manson, chairman of Cope Allman International, is weighing the implications of the high inflation rate.

is an unexpected improvement in the very near future output will be hit and this, coupled with rising costs, will affect current results.

In the year to July 31 profits at the pre-tax level were down from £36,000 to £34,000 and at the attributable from £186,000 to £172,000.

Doubled profit from Graig Shipping

Contrary to the board's expectations the profit and turnover of Graig Shipping last year bounded to peak levels and the group whose vessels are engaged in world wide bulk cargo trading has made a flying start to the current year.

Appledore to advise S Korea shipbuilders

Consultancy support in the establishment of a research and development programme for the fast-expanding shipbuilding industry of South Korea is to be provided by the British firm of Appledore International.

The company, which has been engaged by the Ministry of Overseas Development, will start work next month and take about four months to complete the project.

Shannon going strong

Surrey-based Shannon Group, which is under an agreed takeover bid from Twinlock, in the same field of business systems and office equipment, not only turns in greatly improved interim profits but also forecasts a big improvement for the year.

Nat Bk Seattle

The National Bank of Commerce of Seattle is to change its name at the end of this year. It will assume the name of Rainier National Bank after Mount Rainier, one of the highest mountains in the United States.

Brokers' views

The search for "defensive areas" in the stock market brings a sturdy recommendation of shipping industry shares by Tilney.

Among the major liner companies, Tilney particularly likes P & O, whose shares are very depressed and stand at a fraction of asset values.

Briefly

GEORGE EWER Six months' sales £4.3m (54.5m) and pre-tax profit £210,000 (£263,000). Interim dividend stays at 0.5p and total should match previous year's 1.5p.

JEVONS COOPER No interim payment (2p) on taxable profit down from £70,000 to £53,000.

HARDYS & HANSONS Turnover last year (excluding VAT) £5,040m (£5.3m), giving pre-tax profit of £1.7m. Total dividend up 1p to 7p.

JACKSONS BOURNE END Sales for half year, £1.7m (£1.5m). Taxable profit is £45,000 (£58,000). Dividend held at 1.05p net.

JOHNSON & FIRTH BROWN Company has acquired the share capital of W. B. White & Sons Limited of Colne, Lancashire, for £80,000, satisfied by the issue of 24,000 ordinary shares.

Results of British Leyland on Wednesday

In the boardroom statements lined up for this pre-holiday week pride of place has to go to British Leyland's final—on Wednesday. Other leaders reporting include British Ox, English Property, Rotmans and Unigate.

Auction, Cranleigh Group, Cronite, Hanson Trust at Martin, the Newsgate Interims: Atcock Oil, Brazeale, M. J. Hassell, Sh. Carpen, and Siebe Gorman.

TOMORROW, Finals.—B. Geridge Brick, British O. Gen, Greenall Whitley a. J. & H. B. Jackson Interim Cooper Industries, Imper Continental Gas, Marl Montague Meyer, W. E. N. ton, Rothmans International.

WEDNESDAY, Finals.—Brit Leyland Motor, Charterhot Group, and Westland / craft. Interims: Associa Dairies, Beyer Peaco British Titan, Celestion Hr ings, Fodens, Metrop Industries, A. Monk, West Cons. Offields and West Evans.

THURSDAY, Finals.—A. Stone, and Stenhou Interims: S. & W. Berisf British Benzol Carbonis Cussons Group, English I nery, Corp, Graf Diamon H. P. Bulmer, Travis Arnold, Trustees Corp, I gaze, and Vaux Brewerie.

FRIDAY, Finals.—D. F. Be (Holdings) and North Foods, Interims: Adda In mar, Ltd., R. P. Holdt, Matthew Hall, R. Co. (Jera Knit, Phoenix Timber Troydale.

Jackal pay-off to come in next year

The Jackal still stalks cinema bringing in bumper profits for the producers.

British & American Holdings (itself returning small profit) excludes the from the wholly-owned subsidiaries, mainly revenue the film "Day of the Jackal" and the record, the curies made a profit £488,000, for the first compared with a loss £53,000 previously.

However, although substantial receipts will from the "Jackal" in second half, a greater part the production costs has been written off, and a loss resulting in a com statement for the full year.

net margins is now intense and that spending could be sharply in the New Year if sure on the pound increase brings credit curbs. The in Chaplin's opinion is worth. But the firm agrees the market in buying the House of Fraser, and the expectation of a bid from United States stakeholder the group's expertise.

The share price of Home Stores has out-performed the sector, Chaplin points and, on the view that half profits growth will be sharply reduced, the share marked as a buy. In spite of "hold" for the short Debenhams and Burton are seen as "holds".

Chaplin will upset the b Marks & Spencer, however its recommendation the shares be sold, because premium over the rest of sector is too high. For Chaplin expects profits of pre-tax from Marks & Spencer.

Meanwhile, gloomy forecasts are not hard to keep-Gee warns of a "bearish news", and it ment that there is no horizon out by events. Sir-Coates warns that gifts more than a "trading m and fears uncomfortable oments between now Christmas. In equities, stresses the importance of for sound yields, rather high ones.

Terry B...

HEMIRING For year to September 1974, turnover £32.2m, £259,000. Earnings 5.3p share. Premises revalued tender 30 resulting in five-increase of £306,000.

GOLDREI FOUCARD In half to September 28 up from £72,000 to £75,000. Problem of foot index diminishing so difficult forecast, chairman says.

BANK LEUMI (UK) New branch being opened. West End of London on Office in the City is being I.

GULF & WESTERN First quarter profits up share (\$1.28), on sales of (\$522.6m)—A.P.-D.

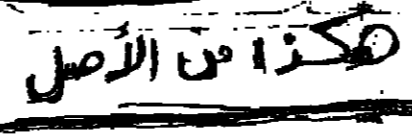
DISTILLERS CORP-SEA Sales for quarter to Oct 1974 £315.4m (United States), \$481.2m. Pre-tax income, (\$41.3m).

NEW COURT EUROPEAN Gross profit, after tax, (\$352,000) for year to \$1 30.

LEADERFLUSH (DOORS Subject to contract and factory acquisition Sankey Upany to acquire Sankey Upany Ltd from January 1.

ANGLIAN FOOD GROUP Company has sold v ethical business to J. S. Sons and Jones for £162.2m.

HEADCREST INVESTME Turnover half year £71.1m (£57.2m) tax profit £100,000 (£93,000) after interest £87,000 (£7,000).



الاصح

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Banks are charging for research

Leading banks operating in the Eurocurrency market are beginning to exact charges from borrowers to cover the research costs they incur out into the possibility of loan projects.

Euromarkets

Step towards the narrowing of a market which has contracted substantially since the middle of this year in terms of the number of banks prepared to participate in syndicates.

and the terms of a loan structure. The only bank which ever recovered the research costs was the one finally given the go-ahead by the borrower.

Christopher Wilkins

Bond prices (yields and premiums)

Table with columns: Bond Name, Price, Yield, Premium. Includes US Govt, Municipal, and Corporate bonds.

Table with columns: Bond Name, Price, Yield, Premium. Includes various international and specialty bonds.

Table with columns: Bond Name, Price, Yield, Premium. Includes various international and specialty bonds.

Freight report

Tankers hope to catch price wind

Last week's decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to raise oil prices from January 1 may get tanker owners out of the worst freight market conditions ever experienced.

There must now be a possibility that the oil companies will do their utmost to get oil prices before the higher crude oil prices take effect on January 1, a spokesman for Galbraith Wrightson remarked.

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Table listing various fixed interest stocks with columns for stock name, price, and yield.

BUSINESS NOTICES

READERS are advised to take appropriate professional advice before entering obligations.

NEWSPAPER FOR SALE

For sale, well established newspaper in the region of London, with a long history of success.

SUCCESSFUL GROUP OF COMPANIES

Successful group of companies offering investment opportunities in various sectors.

RIDING SCHOOL FOR SALE

Riding school for sale, well established, offering excellent facilities for horse riding.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Various businesses for sale, including retail and service enterprises.

COMPANY MEMBERSHIP NOTICES

Notices regarding company membership, including resignations and new appointments.

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

Miscellaneous financial notices, including bond offerings and company announcements.

URUGUAY 5 PER CENT LOAN 1974

Notice regarding the Uruguay 5% loan, including terms and conditions.

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Notice regarding the Uruguay 6% loan, including terms and conditions.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices, including court orders and public statements.

Times Indices

Table showing various indices and their values, including the FTSE 100 and other market indicators.

Bank Base Rates

Table listing bank base rates for various institutions and currencies.

GLOBAL AMERICAN INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

Notice regarding the Global American Investment Trust, including details on shares and dividends.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

Large table listing unit trust prices and their weekly changes, categorized by different trust types.

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Large table listing unit trust prices and their weekly changes, categorized by different trust types.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public notices, including legal proceedings, company announcements, and other official statements.

Secretarial and General Appointments on page 8

SECRETARIAL

STELLA FISHER IN THE STRAND.
Leaves from school or Secretarial College
to call. We have a wide range of openings in
parts of Central London either with shorthand or
and with or without typing.

STELLA FISHER BUREAU,
110/111 Strand, WC2.
01-36 6644.
(Opposite Strand Palace Hotel).

EDITORIAL SECRETARY

New Society is looking for
a Secretary
to work for an Assistant Editor
and for the Books Editor.
Good shorthand, typing, telephone manner
and general ability to cope, are important.
Applications, in writing please, to:
The Editor, New Society,
128 Long Acre, London WC2 9QH

ALL ROUND OFFICE WORK

Architectural photographers
near Angel tube station
for experienced typist who
can do general office work,
including typing, dictating,
general secretarial work, 5-day
week. 537 2555.

FASHION STORY TO £2,300 PLUS BONUS

Fine spot for first class
Secretary at Chairman level in
top West End Fashion House,
even office, leads of variety and
interest plus real responsibility.
And, of course, terrific discoun-
tional M&S Club, Chatterbox,
17, 23/25, Oxford Street, W.1.,
437 9050.

Free holiday in Spain

We will give you a free
holiday in Spain if you find you
are not happy in your present
job. We are looking for a
Secretary to work for a
Famous Fashion House.
Apply to:
Mrs. J. K. Smith,
17, 23/25, Oxford Street, W.1.,
437 9050.

RECEPTIONIST SECRETARY

West End Estate Agents.
Partnership atmosphere. Salary
negotiable. Apply: 01-499 6291
(Ref. T.J.-5.)

BELGRAVIA BUREAU

Belgravia Bureau requires top
class secretaries for various
positions. Salary negotiable.
Apply: 01-499 6291

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MARKETING MANAGER
of health care company would like
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to help in things.
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and excellent staff benefits.
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Linda Petley.

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NOT THE END OF THE WORLD!
Just the start of a new exciting
time full of challenge with
opportunities for promotion and
advancement. We are looking for
a Secretary to help in things.
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DOMESTIC SITUATIONS REQUIRED

AM PAIRS & PAYING Guests placed
in private homes. Home &
Country. Kings Road, S.W.6. 01-731
2444.
LADY 37, seeks accommodation in
London. Salary negotiable.
Apply: 01-499 6291

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1906 RENAULT

8 h.p. TWIN-CYLINDER, 2-SEATER
Fully restored, finished in maroon with gold-leaf
edging and black leather upholstery.
Very good and reliable runner.
Offers around £6,000.
REYNOLDS OF CAMBRIDGE LTD.
Tel.: Cambridge 65441.

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AROUND TOWN FLATS
120 Holland Park Ave. W11
Buckingham Palace, W.11
Just by 5 bed 2 bath Georgian
house, perfect for M.P.s. or
business. Quiet historic street.
250.
HARLEY STREET, W.1.
Super 3 bed new flat totally
redecorated. Excellent location.
Superb views. Fully furnished.
Highly recommended.
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adcasting

peel a potato without cutting yourself? Are you the sort to set the house on
liff Michelmore conducts another of those dispiriting quizzes, complete with
ontestants, this time on domestic hazards (BBC1 9.25). Alternatively Horizon
9.25) cries Timber! But the criminals won't know what hits them as Sergeant
returns to Z Cars (BBC1 6.50) while Sid has dangers of his own to face in a
g for Bless This House (ITV 8.0). The abrasive Mr Gosling goes looking for a
ras-card village (ITV 8.30). Look, Stranger comes up with a cricket-mad pub
7.45).—L.B.

BBC 2

1.00, Pebble Mill.
6.30 pm, International Terms
from Melbourne.
7.45 Look, Stranger: Cricket
at the Spout.
8.10 The Wakers.
8.45 Call the Bluff.
9.25 Horizon: The Neglected
Harvest—Wood.
10.15 Second City Firsts: The
Tales of a Poacher, by Ian
Taylor.
10.45 Duncan Grant at Char-
terhouse.
11.20 News.
11.50-11.55, Frank Windsor
reads White Christmas,
by W. K. Rodgers.

Thames

10.00 am, The World Came to
Cease: A Gallop Through
Gourmet. 10.50, Table Tennis.
11.00, Ripside. 11.55, Fable.
12.00, Mr Trumble. 12.15 pm,
King William III. 12.30, Mr and
Mrs. 1.00, News. 1.20, Lunch
time Today. 1.30, Emmerdale
Farm. 2.00, Jim's World. 2.30,
Good Afternoon. 3.00,
Village of Daughters with Eric
Sykes. Scilla Gabel. 4.25, Clap-
board. 4.50, Robert's
Rehears. 5.20, University Chal-
lenge.

ATV

10.05 am, Secret Menzies.
10.35, Film: Fort Afrique.
11.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Lunch
time Newsweek. 1.30, Thames.
3.00 Film: Meet Me After the
Shower. 4.25, Thames. 4.00, ATV
Citizens' Rights. 11.00, George
Canny. 11.10-12.05 am, Ripside.

Southern

10.00 am, Hammy Hamster.
10.30, Film: Captain January.
11.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Lunch
time Newsweek. 1.30, Thames.
3.00 Film: Meet Me After the
Shower. 4.25, Thames. 4.00, ATV
Citizens' Rights. 11.00, George
Canny. 11.10-12.05 am, Ripside.

Yorkshire

10.55 am, Michael Rantala. 11.05,
Swiss. 11.20, News. 11.50,
Thames. 1.20 pm, Lunch
time Newsweek. 1.30, Thames.
3.00 Film: Meet Me After the
Shower. 4.25, Thames. 4.00, ATV
Citizens' Rights. 11.00, George
Canny. 11.10-12.05 am, Ripside.

Granada

9.35 am, Pippi Longstocking.
10.00, London. 10.25, Ripside.
10.40, Sally and Jack. 10.50,
Ripside. 11.40, The Pied Piper.
11.45, Hammy Hamster. 1.20,
Thames. 1.30 pm, Nature's Win-
dow. 1.30, Thames. 3.00, Film:
Rock Around the Clock. Bill
Haley and the Comets. 4.25,
Thames. 6.00, Granada Reports.
6.40, Thames. 10.30-12.30 am,
Film: They Met in the Dark,
with James Mason.

Border

10.55 am, The Enchanted Hedge.
11.05, The Secret Theatre. 11.20,
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING... To place an advertisement in any of these categories, call 01-837 3311

DEATHS... BURTON—On December 14th, 1974, passed peacefully at home, Roger Philip Burton, aged 72 years.

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IN MEMORIAM... WATTS, GEORGE ALBERT—In respectful memory of my father, George Albert Watts, who died on December 14th, 1974.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS... J. R. KENYON LTD., FUNERAL DIRECTORS, 45-47 Edgware Road, W.2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS... A SAFE INVESTMENT WITH A HIGH YIELD FOR WINTER RESIDENTS AT MOSTYN HOTEL EASTBOURNE

ANNOUNCEMENTS... CHRISTMAS AWAY... WANTED—USE OF WRIGHT 2100 furnished house with garden for Christmas rental.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS... A WINTER YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER WITH SOVEREIGN HOLIDAYS... East Africa. Land of the snow capped mountains.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS... FOR SALE AND WANTED... CARPETS EX-HIBITION (20-85p per sq. yd.) Ideal Home/Olympia/F.I.L.

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BIRTHS... BURTON—On December 14th, 1974, at the Lindo Wing, St. Mary's Hospital, London, a son, Simon James Burton.

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MARRIAGE... HOBURN, ELLIS—On December 14th, 1974, at St. Andrew's Church, London, the marriage of Miss Eileen Ellis to Mr. Robert Hoburn.

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,869... 1 Across: 1 They suggest Silver didn't wipe his feet on the mat (4).

Lonely and Cold at Christmas... Not everyone can look forward to a happy Christmas with friends and good cheer.

GRACIOUS LIVING... This advert received approximately 20 replies... The advertiser has received 20 replies for his property.

CHRISTMAS AWAY... CHRISTMAS SKIING IN SCOTLAND... CHRISTMAS AWAY... CHRISTMAS SKIING IN SCOTLAND... CHRISTMAS AWAY... CHRISTMAS SKIING IN SCOTLAND...

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING... Including Births, Marriages and Deaths... Classified advertising section with various notices.

ACROSS... 1 They suggest Silver didn't wipe his feet on the mat (4). 2 A boot of this shape is barred (5).

DOWN... 1 Kicks from horses (5). 2 Reading Roman law But for Greek it needs this (7).

CHRISTMAS AWAY... CHRISTMAS SKIING IN SCOTLAND... CHRISTMAS AWAY... CHRISTMAS SKIING IN SCOTLAND... CHRISTMAS AWAY... CHRISTMAS SKIING IN SCOTLAND...

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